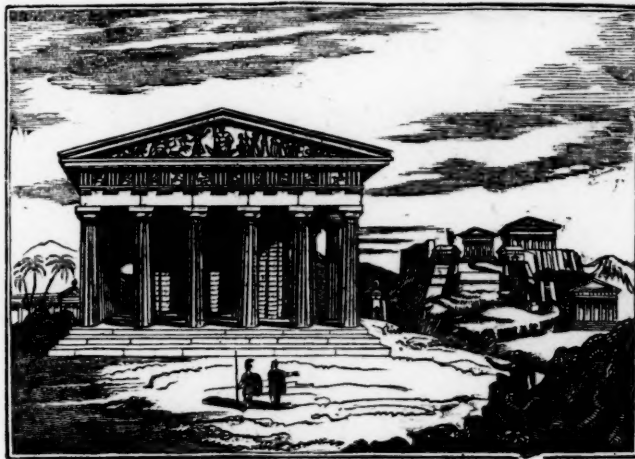


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No. 2410.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1874.

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1874.

LITERATURE

SPENCER PERCEVAL.

The Life of the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, including his Correspondence with numerous Distinguished Persons. By his Grandson, Spencer Walpole. 2 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

MR. SPENCER WALPOLE, the biographer of Perceval, is son of the Right Hon. Spencer Horatio Walpole, lately our Home Secretary, who has uniformly in public life conciliated the respect of opponents by amiability and virtue, and who married a daughter of Spencer Perceval. This book shows creditable industry, and a moderate, impartial tone. It will have a favourable effect for Perceval's reputation, bringing out as it does in strong relief his Parliamentary ability and exemplary character. Perceval well held his own in Parliament against Fox, Windham, and Canning, and on two memorable occasions his talents, aided by his manliness and openness of character, enabled him to foil and triumph over elaborate intrigues of Canning and Lord Wellesley. Mr. Walpole's narrative, fortified by Perceval's correspondence, clearly demonstrates Canning's egoistic and little scrupulous ambition, when, in 1809, he complained of Lord Castlereagh, strove to be Prime Minister, broke up the Duke of Portland's administration, and, failing in his own personal object, lost office and made Perceval Premier. Again, in 1812, Perceval signally baffled Lord Wellesley, who, with Canning at his back, was intriguing with the Prince Regent against him. Lord Wellesley resigned the Foreign Secretaryship; he did not become Prime Minister, as he had hoped; he was succeeded by Lord Castlereagh, not Canning, as he had wished; Canning remained out, and Perceval was master of the position. Mr. Walpole's narratives of these two critical incidents in Perceval's career are clear and satisfactory; and the effect is better because Mr. Walpole is not over-zealous. He appreciates and respects, but does not idolize, his grandfather.

Spencer Perceval was a younger son of the Earl of Egmont, and had to make his own fortune. He was born in 1762. After Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, he went to the bar. In 1790 he married a lady of some fortune, and in the same year he was made, by the interest of his relative Lord Northampton, Deputy-Recorder of Northampton. Other small appointments followed. Romilly well described him on his joining the Midland Circuit. After mentioning another recruit, Ayscough, as one who "had read a great deal," and was "cheerful, warm, friendly, and a great acquisition to the society of the circuit," Romilly adds:—

"So, too, was Perceval; with much less, and indeed very little, reading, of a conversation barren of instruction, and with strong invincible prejudices on many subjects, yet by his excellent temper, his engaging manner, and his sprightly conversation, he was the delight of all who knew him."

This is the right key to Perceval's political career and character. He was clever, but not profound. He had all suitable ability for a successful Parliamentary life, and for this he

had the aid of high connexions, and a bright, genial character. The "invincible prejudices" of early days led up to rigid and unbending Toryism in manhood. While diligently pursuing his profession, he wrote an elaborate pamphlet on the question of the continuance of Warren Hastings's impeachment after a dissolution, which won the approval of Pitt, and led to an offer from the Prime Minister, in the beginning of 1796, to Perceval, not yet in Parliament, of the Chief Secretaryship for Ireland. The handsome offer was refused from motives of prudence. Soon after, Perceval became King's Counsel; and a vacancy occurring at Northampton, Lord Northampton caused him to be elected for that borough to the House of Commons in May, 1796. He threw himself with ardour into debate, and was an indefatigable supporter of Pitt's administration. When Addington became Prime Minister in the beginning of 1801, Perceval was made Solicitor-General, and in April, 1802, he became Attorney-General. He was Addington's best defender, and when later Pitt and Canning turned against Addington, Perceval's courage and prowess in defence gained for him great applause and a high reputation as a debater. On the eve of Addington's resignation, in 1804, the Chief Justiceship of the Common Pleas became vacant; it was offered to Perceval, and was refused by him. Pitt, succeeding Addington, sought Perceval's assistance, and Perceval continued as Attorney-General under Pitt; and he remained Attorney-General until Pitt's death, in the beginning of 1806. Then came the Ministry of "All the Talents," in which Perceval had no part. He was not unwilling to act under Lord Grenville, but would not enter into the same administration with Fox. He was now accepted as leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons, in preference to Canning. Pitt had some years before designated Perceval as the fittest to succeed him in the lead of his party. It is further stated, that Pitt held Perceval's speaking powers in such high estimation, that he never missed willingly an opportunity of hearing him. When the Ministry of "All the Talents" was broken up, Perceval became Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Duke of Portland's Ministry. He had wished to be Attorney-General, desiring to continue in his profession, and, in consideration of his large family, not to sacrifice legal for political office, which might be of but short duration. But the Duke of Portland pressed upon him the Chancellorship of the Exchequer with the lead in the House of Commons, and overcame the money difficulty by offering him the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster for life. This arrangement raised an unexpected outcry in the House of Commons, and Perceval having in the meantime declared his determination to accept the Chancellorship of the Exchequer in any event, was obliged to forego the life-tenure of the Chancellorship of the Duchy of Lancaster, and to take it during pleasure. The days are gone when such arrangements for the convenience of Cabinet Ministers could be thought of; but the proposal shows the estimation in which Perceval was held by his party and among the statesmen of the day. Parliamentary reports were then meagre and uncertain. Mr. Walpole's biography has brought forward for the first time,

from the drafts of his speeches, which were carefully prepared, the immense quantity of Perceval's oratory in Parliament while he fought under the leadership of others.

Perceval was Prime Minister from October, 1809, till the shot of an assassin laid him low in the lobby of the House of Commons on May 11th, 1812. He had great difficulty in completing his administration; overtures for junction were unsuccessfully made to Lord Grey and Lord Grenville; he failed also in procuring Lord Sidmouth's assistance; Vansittart, one of Lord Sidmouth's friends, refused the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, and he then turned to two young men of promise, Lord Palmerston and Robert Milnes, the father of Richard Monckton Milnes, Lord Houghton. The Chancellorship of the Exchequer was refused by both, but Palmerston accepted the office of Secretary at War, without a seat in the Cabinet, for which he distrusted his capacity. After some other refusals, Perceval reluctantly determined to retain the Chancellorship of the Exchequer in his own hands, together with the office of First Lord of the Treasury. Speaking of Perceval's want of assistance for debate in the House of Commons, Mr. Walpole says:—

"Two younger men were indeed capable, if they had been willing, of rendering more effectual assistance. But the qualities which ultimately made Sir Robert Peel the greatest minister of the nineteenth century, were only partially developed in 1810, when he made his maiden speech. Constitutional diffidence condemned Lord Palmerston to habitual silence."

The future Sir Robert Peel had just entered Parliament, with a great reputation from Oxford, and he was selected by Perceval to second the Address on the opening of the session of 1810. Peel's father wrote to thank Perceval for the honour of the selection, quaintly saying, that if he (the son)

"has the good fortune to be honoured with your confidence, I flatter myself he will be found deserving of the trust reposed in him; he possesses capacity, industry, and virtuous habits, and under the guidance of a judicious and well-informed friend, he may become a useful member of society."

Early in the session of 1810, Perceval showed the disinterestedness of his character by resisting a great temptation to enrich himself or a son by a sinecure Tellership of the Exchequer, which became suddenly vacant.—

"The place was worth 2,700*l.* a year; it involved no duties; it was in the gift of the Minister; it could be held either by the Minister himself or any member of his family. Singularly enough, Pitt, twenty-six years before, had been subjected to a similar temptation."

Perceval imitated Pitt's self-denial. He gave the Tellership of the Exchequer "to the poorest of his prominent supporters, Charles Yorke." The King, in approving the recommendation of Yorke, wrote,—

"His Majesty cannot in sufficient terms express his sense of the liberality and public spirit which Mr. Perceval shows on this occasion, when an opportunity occurred of making a handsome provision for one of his numerous family, and when, indeed, it had already occurred to His Majesty to have proposed such an arrangement to him."

Lord Palmerston wrote at the time:—

"There is not a man, I am persuaded, on the Opposition side of the House, who would not have taken the Tellership under similar circumstances."

This generous nature inspired friends with enthusiasm and opponents with respect. We

refer the reader to Mr. Walpole's account of the admiration universally excited by Perceval's manly, courageous, and successful conduct through the House of Commons of the Regency Bill of 1811, and of the eulogiums from all quarters evoked by his melancholy death. His politics were cramped and narrow; he had no political prevision; but a more honest, virtuous or amiable man never appeared in English public life.

Mr. Walpole has done well to engraft an extensive historical narrative on the biography; but his history is sometimes obscured by ill-judged omissions. He abstains from all explanation of the cause of Pitt's ceasing to be Prime Minister in 1801, when Addington took his place. He tells fully and well the Canning machinations against Lord Castlereagh in 1809, but omits to tell of the Castlereagh and Canning duel. We have complimented Mr. Walpole on his industry and fairness; but the book is not remarkable for ability, and we cannot call it a classical biography. Mr. Walpole is remiss in keeping up dates as he goes on. He is somewhat too didactic and dogmatical on constitutional questions. When Whitbread, in 1805, moved resolutions censuring Lord Melville, Pitt met them by moving the previous question, and the numbers being equal on a division, the Speaker, Abbott, gave his casting vote against the Government, for Whitbread's motion. Mr. Walpole goes out of his way to remark:—

"No historian, as far as I am aware, has ever criticized this vote of the Speaker; but it seems clear that it was wrong. It is the Speaker's duty, in the case of a tie, to give a vote which shall allow the question to be raised again. The Speaker, therefore, on this ground, should have voted for the previous question" (vol. i. p. 160).

The Speaker's duty can only be described by saying that he should give the vote which he thinks right. It is difficult to see how voting for the previous question would have led to resuscitation of the motion. If there were any convention as to the Speaker's course, it might, perhaps, be said that he should show independence of the Government. But anyhow we know not where Mr. Walpole has found authority for his exposition of the Speaker's duty. Again, Mr. Walpole precipitately lays down the law on a point which must engage the attention of Parliament as soon as it assembles. He thinks he has found an unmistakable precedent for Mr. Gladstone's assumption of the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer in addition to that of First Lord of the Treasury, without the necessity of presenting himself to his constituents for re-election. When Perceval became First Lord of the Treasury in 1809, he already held the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, and after many ineffectual attempts to induce others to accept it, he continued to hold it with that of First Commissioner of the Treasury. The Speaker (Abbott), the Lord Chancellor (Eldon), and the Attorney and Solicitor General all advised that Perceval had not vacated his seat by becoming First Lord of the Treasury. Mr. Walpole concludes that "the acceptance of the Chancellorship of the Exchequer by Mr. Gladstone would no more vacate his seat than Perceval's was vacated by the acceptance of the First Lordship of the Treasury" (vol. ii. p. 55). Apart from the effects of recent legis-

lation and the language of the last Parliamentary Reform Act, there seems to us to be a material difference between the two cases. Perceval was already a Commissioner of the Treasury and Chancellor of the Exchequer; in becoming First Lord he was a Commissioner of the Treasury still. He took no new office. It mattered nothing whether he was first or second Commissioner. Mr. Gladstone, being First Commissioner of the Treasury, takes a new office when he takes the Chancellorship of the Exchequer. With party politics we have nothing to do, and there are signs of a party conflict on the question raised by Mr. Gladstone's becoming Chancellor of the Exchequer in addition to First Lord of the Treasury; but we hold ourselves at liberty to speak of the constitutional question, erroneously treated, as we think, by Mr. Walpole.

NEW TALES FROM THE NORSE.

Tales from the Fjeld. A Second Series of Popular Tales, from the Norse of P. Chr. Asbjørnsen. By G. W. Dasent, D.C.L. (Chapman & Hall.)

To all who are in quest of a book as a new year's present for young people of any age, let us recommend these 'Tales from the Fjeld.' Everyone knows, or at least ought to know, the 'Popular Tales from the Norse,' which MM. Asbjørnsen and Moe collected, and to which Dr. Dasent some years ago gave so wide a circulation in England and in America by his translation, and the excellent introduction by which it was preceded. That work has long been out of print, but we are glad to learn from Dr. Dasent that a third edition will shortly be published. Meantime, let us welcome its worthy successor, this new series of Norse tales, full of the life and spirit, the imagination and the poetry, which made the first series so attractive to old and young alike.

For, although this book will serve as an admirable present for children, its interest is by no means confined to them. Since MM. Asbjørnsen and Moe commenced their task of collecting from the mouths of Norwegian peasants the tales in which successive generations of their forefathers had delighted, a vast impulse has been given to the study of folklore in all its branches, and especially to that of popular tales. The volumes which have been published on the subject are so numerous that they form no inconsiderable library in themselves, not to mention the host of articles in scientific and other journals in which the questions to which it has given rise have been treated by scholars in many lands, more especially in Germany. But few of the collections have naturalized themselves in England, and only the German stories due to the Brothers Grimm can compete in popularity among us with the Norse tales, for which we were indebted in the first place to MM. Asbjørnsen and Moe, and in the second to Dr. Dasent. The present series is contributed entirely by M. Asbjørnsen, for M. Moe, occupied by his duties as a parish priest, has of late years left the pleasant task of gleaming in the harvest-field of popular wisdom and fancy to be carried on by his friend and former colleague, whose official duties lead him year after year into all manner of out-of-the-way places, along the shores of

lonely fjords, across fields where a human voice is seldom heard. Dr. Dasent remarks with justice that "several of the Tales now published are variations, though very interesting ones, from some of those in the first series. Others are rather the harvest of popular experience than mythical tales, and, on the whole, the character of this volume is more jocose and less poetical than that of its predecessor." Still 'The Golden Palace that hung in the Air' is a good specimen of the class of stories in which a youngest son slays terrible trolls and delivers fair princesses from their enchantments; 'The Three Lemons' is another excellent tale of the romantic order, probably a stray from a warmer clime; 'The Green Knight' is a very interesting version of that 'Blue Bird' already so dear to many a young reader; 'Friends in Life and Death' is an exceedingly heathenish form of the myth rendered so widely familiar by 'Rip van Winkle'; and about most of the other stories similar remarks may be made. In fact, young people will find the whole volume full of healthy excitement and honest mirth, while a large portion of its contents will prove of no small value to such students as may not have a thorough acquaintance with the Norse tongue. Even to those who are conversant with ordinary Danish, we may observe, there are many words and peculiar idioms in the 'Folke-Eventyr' which may prove puzzling—especially if they do not happen to possess the newly-published edition of M. Aasen's invaluable dictionary.

Through all difficulties of this nature, Dr. Dasent appears to have successfully made his way. His translation is as accurate as it is spirited, preserving the essential characteristics of the original, and rendering it into vigorous English. Two faults, it is true,—the one of commission, the other of omission,—we have to lay to his charge. It is said that good wine needs no bush, and analogy would lead us to conclude that good tales require no "setting." Dr. Dasent appears to have arrived at the same conclusion after he had finished about a third of the present volume. He began, he tells us, by setting the tales "in a frame formed by the imaginary adventures of English sportsmen on the Fjeld or Fells in Norway." But after a while he "grew weary of the setting and framework," and "resolved to let the Tales speak for themselves and stand alone." We are sorry that this resolution was not formed at an earlier period, for the "setting and framework" are uncalled for, and out of keeping with what they enclose. Our other complaint is, that Dr. Dasent, while he has often altered the titles of the original stories, and has completely changed the order in which they occur, gives no numerical references or other indications by which they may be identified with his versions. The absence of some such assistance has been the cause of our wasting many a minute, spent in an attempt to find in the pages of Asbjørnsen's new series of 'Folke-Eventyr' Dr. Dasent's stories of 'The Haunted Mill' and 'The Honest Penny.' The second of these tales really belongs to the first series, to which it was contributed by M. Moe, forming No. 59 in the fifth and last edition. But having noticed these slight drawbacks, we are glad to resume the more agreeable office of commending to our readers

a book for which they have good reason to be grateful, and of heartily wishing it success.

SIAM.

The Land of the White Elephant, Sights and Scenes in South-Eastern Asia: a Personal Narrative of Travel and Adventure in Farther India, embracing the Countries of Burma, Siam, Cambodia, and Cochinchina (1871-2). By Frank Vincent, jun. With Map, Plans, and numerous Illustrations. (Low & Co.)

IN the volume to which this somewhat sensational title has been prefixed, Mr. Vincent, an American citizen, describes a journey which he lately made to parts of Birma, Siam, and Camboja, and which it took him eleven months to complete. The author claims for his narrative "little else than the merit of being true," and we, for our part, must decline to award him a very much higher meed of praise. Accurate, in the main, he undoubtedly is, and though there are a good many errors scattered up and down the book, yet, perhaps, these are not so frequent as we might have anticipated when we consider that the writer was unacquainted with the language of the peoples he visited, and stayed but a very brief time among them. His style is clumsy and harsh, abounding in abrupt parentheses which break the flow of his sentences; and we have not discovered a single new fact or one addition to our stock of ideas in the entire volume. From this declaration our readers will infer that we are not prepared to rank the present work among the standard authorities on Indo-China. The suggestions which the King took occasion to offer when he gave audience to Mr. Vincent at Mandalay will prove of some interest to those who are acquainted with the policy and prospects of Birma; but, save in that instance, there is really not a passage in the book which deserves to be read a second time. Perhaps, however, it is hardly fair to be too severe upon a production of this class. The book has been a considerable time in preparation—at any rate, we saw it announced by the publishers many months ago; and we had, therefore, hoped that when it appeared at last it might turn out to be of importance. Our expectations have not been fulfilled; but it is probable that Mr. Vincent aims at nothing more than producing a few light and readable chapters, suited to the tastes of the untravelled public. To accomplish this purpose he has simply written out the contents of an elaborate diary, in which he must have diligently noted down in minute detail his experiences from day to day. Such, at any rate, seems to us to have been the plan he followed in making up his book; and we suspect that this is not the first instance in which a volume of travels has been written down to the level of a particular class, or pieced together according to rule of thumb.

We cannot, for example, understand why, if not merely to fill up the book, the author tells his readers (at p. 92) that,—

"Penang forms, together with province Wellesley, Malacca, and Singapore, what is called the Straits Settlements, the government being under the direction of the Lieutenant-Governor of Singapore" [by the way, an inexact statement], "who formerly was subject to the Viceroy of India, but

latterly, I believe, now (*sic*) reports directly to the (English) Home Government."

We really do not require this sort of information; and as to Singapore, a recent work by a much more experienced man (Mr. Cameron) gives a full account of that colony, and Mr. Vincent's description is, therefore, not merely superficial, but superfluous too. Then we find, on the same page, that Chinese junks "all have huge eyes painted upon their prows, for, says 'John,' 'Spose no hab got eyes, how can see?'" Why tire us with such more than thrice-told tales as these?

Here is another extract from the traveller's diary (see p. 105):—

"During our stay at Singapore we received every kindness and attention from the American Consul, Dr. Jewell, of — Washington, D.C., who lived with his wife in the same hotel. Dr. J. and his family are Mississippians by birth, education, and residence, but they remained faithfully loyal to the National Government during our late terrible civil war," &c.

Again, it is related, on p. 232, that,—

"There were two kinds of soup, served in large blue china tureens, pigs' feet, and boiled beef, broiled chicken, cooked spread out flat with the feet attached, fried sweet potatoes (here a white variety), boiled and baked rice, half a dozen bowls of mixed and minced meats, two or three varieties of condiments, &c.: then followed a dozen bowls—"

and so forth; and we may observe, that there are no less than eleven passages in which Mr. Vincent tells his readers what he or other people had to eat. The names of places and the titles of officials are, in the main, correctly given, but there are numerous errors, which are obviously due to the subsequent inability of the writer to decipher his own entries. Thus we have (p. 137) the Menam Tacheen (River Tacheen) spoken of as the Mahachen River, and, a few lines further down, we find "another river—the Haichin"—spoken of; the truth being that it was the same river, the Tacheen, down which the traveller, after emerging from the Nakhon-chaisee Creek, had been rowing all day, until he reached the village of Tacheen, at its mouth, and entered another canal. Many similar inaccuracies might be quoted. The most amusing one is where we are told (p. 80) that the Government of Ava enforces obedience on any dependent tribe in Laos who may threaten resistance by entirely cutting off from them so necessary an article of diet as *suet*. Yet at the same time it is remarked that these tribes export cattle. First of all, the Laos tribes do not eat *suet*; and, secondly, if they export cattle they cannot be in want of it. The puzzle is explained if we suppose that in Mr. Vincent's diary the original word was "salt."

On p. 76, the Panthay rebellion is alluded to as still going on. No doubt this was the fact when the diary was written, but Mr. Vincent ought really to have informed himself that Taly was captured a few months back, and its Mohammedan leaders were dispersed. It is somewhat difficult to discover what were the objects which Mr. Vincent had in view when he decided to travel across Indo-China. He is not a sportsman, at least, he says not a word about shooting; he is not a missionary; he is not a professional newspaper correspondent, like Mr. Russell or Mr. Stanley; he is not a naturalist—his conclusions are too

commonplace and unscientific to warrant any such supposition: he appears to be nothing more than a traveller who has taken the trouble to compile a book of very moderate merits on subjects which have all been treated much more fully by recent writers, whose works we must confess that he does not seem to have sufficiently studied before he sat down to his task.

It is disappointing to find that Mr. Vincent could only afford so short a time to the exploration of the Cambojan ruins. He was nineteen days in journeying from Bangkok to Angkor (on the whole, rather quick travelling), and he set out on his return four days afterwards. He has, therefore, been able to add nothing to what we already know concerning these remains, and his account is far inferior to that compiled from the notes which M. Mouhot left behind him. The authorities proper to be consulted about the ancient Cambojan Empire are Dr. Bastian's work on Eastern Asia, and the recently published official account of the French journey of exploration in Indo-China. Mr. Ferguson's theories are not warranted by the evidence. Taking his accounts of the Cambojan ruins at second hand, he adapts them to the "tree and serpent-worship" theory. A sort of subsidiary veneration for certain trees and serpents is in some strange way mixed up everywhere with the Buddhist superstitions; but the people who built the temples and cities of Tchén-la (as the Chinese historians term it) were essentially Buddhists. Neither is it necessary, at least in our view, to assign to these ruins the extraordinary antiquity which some have attributed to them. Thus, Mr. Vincent seems to follow Mouhot in believing them to be 2,000 years old; and speaking of the arched roofs in the galleries of the great temple, he describes their ceilings as "uncarved."

Had he looked a little more narrowly, he might have discovered that the interior faces of those arches—the only rough-hewn portions of the temple—were originally hidden from view by elaborately-carved wooden ceilings. And there are places here and there where fragments of the woodwork remain. This fact must preclude us from assigning a very early date to its construction. Moreover, it is wholly unnecessary to do so. The character in which the numerous inscriptions have been written no doubt differs from modern Siamese and Cambojan, from the Pali and the Sanscrit, but it has been shown to be akin to the three latter. There is, or was, a priest at Udong, who professes to read a good deal of it; and who has picked out the alphabet; and it is only because his knowledge of Sanscrit fails him that he has not made his interpretations complete. Misgovernment, oppression, war, famine, and pestilence, accompanied at last by the wholesale migration of the remnants of the population, as well as by the rapid growth of tropical vegetation, would bring the Cambojan temples to their present stage of decay with far greater rapidity than might be the case in cooler climes. We cannot here do more than thus touch upon this very interesting subject. Mr. Vincent's visit was so brief that his account is imperfect, and his conclusions inexact. There is no need to drag in the lost tribes of Israel (page 223), or to make out a connexion between Camboja and Rome from a fancied resemblance in the sound of a

native name. But it does not follow from this that Byzantine artists did not furnish the designs. We are sorry that we cannot speak very favourably of Mr. Vincent's production; it is, however, impossible for a just critic to pronounce more than an extremely qualified approval. The book may, perhaps, entertain some readers, but it has no fascinations for us. The Marquis de Beauvoir spent but one week in Siam, yet he wrote a most interesting account of his visit. How was it he succeeded where Mr. Vincent has failed? First, he wields a brilliant pen; and, secondly, he attached himself in Bangkok to a Roman Catholic priest who had spent thirty years in the country, and pumped his informant dry about Siam and the Siamese. Mr. Vincent, in every place he visited (with one exception), got hold of the wrong men instead of the right ones. Thus in Mandalay, he depended upon a Chinaman, in Bangkok, chiefly on the American Consul, who had been but two years there, and knew nothing of the language; he travelled down the great lake *alone*; at Penompein, he picked up a Manila man, perhaps a half-caste Spaniard or a Portuguese, and a sailor named Edwards, and it was under the auspices and guidance of the latter that he made himself acquainted with Saigon. If Mr. Vincent had not been so shy as he would appear to have been of the English and French officials in the districts which he traversed, he might have written a better book.

History of the English Institutions. By Philip Vernon Smith, M.A. (Rivingtons.)

If it be, as we think, a mark of learning in a short historical treatise that its sins are sins of omission, not of commission, the author may, on the whole, fairly be awarded that praise for this 'History of the English Institutions,' even the omissions of which might escape notice, but for its rather ambitious title. It contains, in a short compass, an amount of information not otherwise accessible to students without considerable research. The chapter on Local Government in particular is well executed. It would be hard to name any other book in which the history of our local institutions, from the Gemots of the first Teutonic settlers down to the County Court, the Local Government Board, and the School Board of our own day, is to be found. There is, however, a repetition in this chapter of an erroneous proposition laid down in the first chapter of the book, that, after the Conquest, "the clergy, with the exception of the higher ecclesiastics, who held baronies, were excluded from the right of participating in the judicial and administrative business of the whole kingdom, and of the separate shires and hundreds." The object of the ordinance of William the First separating the spiritual from the secular courts was ecclesiastical privilege and immunity, not ecclesiastical exclusion and disability; the real exclusions and disabilities were imposed on the laity, not on the clergy. Lay judges were precluded from taking cognizance of causes over which the Church claimed jurisdiction, and the laity were subjected to the canon law and to the exclusive jurisdiction of ecclesiastical courts, in respect of many lay interests which would have been better protected in secular courts. So far from being excluded from participation

in the judicial and administrative business of the whole kingdom, the clergy of all grades took the most active part in both administrative and judicial business down to the reign of Edward the Third, and down to the sixteenth century the officers of the Court of Chancery and the Barons of the Exchequer were generally in ecclesiastical orders.

On the influence of the class of *ceorls* as a whole, and on the openings to individuals to rise to the rank of *thegn* and of *bishop* before the Norman Conquest, Mr. Smith makes a remark which deserves consideration in connexion with the rise in our own day of individual workmen to the rank of great capitalists. "The class, as a whole, became gradually depressed. The mere fact that the leading men were being perpetually taken out of it, created of itself a tendency in that direction." But the statement that subinfeudation was one of the chief causes of an improvement in the condition of the villeins from the time of Henry the Second, would hardly meet with the assent of some of our best English historians. Mr. Stubbs would probably be of opinion that subinfeudation tended to crush the lowest class of tenants beneath a superincumbent mass of middle-men, and that the statute of *Quia Emptores* was practically a boon to the villein.

Mr. Smith's arrangement of subjects appears to us, in some respects, awkward and inconvenient, as leading to cross divisions and strange postponements. The reader is banded back and forwards from chapter to chapter, and sent up and down from section to section, without even numbers of the chapters and sections in the margin or dates at the head of each section to assist his research. Much of the matter in the chapter on Legislation would naturally find a place in the one on Parliament; and all account of the king—an institution which played so great a part in our constitutional history before as well as after the Roman Conquest—is postponed until nearly the middle of the book. A desire of brevity is, doubtless, in part, the cause of some inaccuracies and obscurities, and some serious shortcomings. Of the first, we have an instance in the statement, p. 4, that "they (the people) made continual encroachments on the folc-land by converting portion after portion of it into boc-land—land held by private individuals." The author may be full of learning on the subject of folc-land and boc-land, but his language on the point is so loose, that an unlearned student might conclude that the people promiscuously cut up the folc-land among them, or that individuals from time to time cut slices off the common territory and appropriated them. And surely a student has reason to complain of the absence of all explanation of the meaning of "the personal element" in the following passage:—"While in the early Teutonic polity the relations of the people to their rulers were purely personal in their nature, these relations under the feudal system were almost as exclusively territorial. But though dominant for a time, territorial relationship did not stamp out, or even permanently over-ride, the incidents of personal relationship. Whatever excellence our institutions possess over those of other nations, is due in great measure to the fact that the personal element was left in our constitution sufficiently strong to contend with, and even-

tually over-master the territorial element." Macaulay's reprobation of "the unpleasant trick which Gibbon brought into fashion of telling a story by allusion," ought to have sufficiently discountenanced this trick on the part of historical writers, especially of handbooks for students, yet it is one of their commonest offences to this day. They speak, for instance, of "the Lower Empire" without a word of explanation; and though Mr. Smith is guiltless of that particular imitation of Gibbon's unpleasant trick, he says, p. 83, with respect to early English towns possessing an independent organization,—"These boroughs (including *cities*) were not handed over by the Conqueror to his barons with the counties in which they were situate." *Cities* are italicized, yet the student is not told what distinction between cities and boroughs is denoted.

The author's chief sins are, as we have already indicated, sins of omission. For this he gives the excuse in the Preface that "the omission of all notice of the law of treason, and of other matters more or less akin to the subject of the work, has been due to a desire to compress the volume within the smallest possible limits." Royalty, we have already observed, ought to have been specially referred to in the first chapter of the work, as an institution which played a leading part in the early history of the English constitution; the omission, however, is in a good measure atoned for by the learning on the subject contained in a later chapter. But the omission of the Church clearly arises from the fact that Mr. Smith is weak on that side of our early history. He refers among his authorities particularly to Mr. Stubbs's 'Illustrations of English Constitutional History,' and the student who consults that very useful and learned work will not find the influence of the ecclesiastical element over the formation of English institutions, both prior to and after the Norman Conquest, passed over as it has been by Mr. Smith. The history of our laws relating to land, again, and of the causes which have formed our peculiar land system, is disposed of in a sentence which contrives to compress a good deal of mis-statement into a few words, page 27, respecting the effect of the 12 Car. II. c. 24:—"Thus was completely swept away all that was burdensome in the remnants of feudalism; for we cannot regard as such the surviving traces of it, some of which even now exist in many of our institutions, and especially in our law of landed property." The causes of the growth of our double system of law and equity, too, might surely claim a place in a 'History of the English Institutions,' and we cannot accept the meagre reference to the Court of Chancery in the chapter on Judicature as satisfying that claim. We might, also, have reasonably looked at the present day for some notice of the institutions relating to women in such a history; but beyond a reference to the descendibility of feudal lands and peerages in the female line, and to some statutes of the reigns of Elizabeth, Anne, and Victoria, there is not a word in Mr. Smith's book bearing directly or indirectly on the rights and disabilities, personal or proprietary, political or civil, of half the community. It would, perhaps, be too much to expect in so short a treatise anything of the philosophy of the

history of English institutions, of the tendencies perceptible in their rise and decline, and the social forces shaping their forms; yet Dalrymple's 'History of Feudal Property,' a work published more than a century ago, though necessarily on several points behind the modern learning shown in Mr. Smith's book, contains much instruction of that kind, well deserving attention even at the present day.

We can, however, commend Mr. Smith's book to students of English history as one they ought not to be without, although they may not find in it all that from its title they might expect, or all the facilities for its study they might desire.

THE SEPOY WAR.

Incidents in the Sepoy War of 1857-58. Compiled from the Private Journals of General Sir Hope Grant, G.C.B. Together with some Explanatory Chapters, by Capt. H. Knollys, Royal Artillery. (Blackwood & Sons.)

In this volume Capt. Knollys has set in order and arranged in a collected form the rough manuscript notes of a private journal, kept under circumstances of danger and fatigue, during the Indian Revolt of 1857-8-9, by Sir Hope Grant. Unfortunately it appeared desirable to make considerable alterations in the original arrangement of the diary, in which the events of the preceding twenty-four hours were committed to paper whilst fresh in the writer's memory; the consequence is, that the whole now bears the character of a retrospective compilation, and has lost that charm and freshness which we expect to find in the personal relation of incidents in which the narrator took part, or of which he was an eyewitness; for, although the facts and opinions are Sir Hope Grant's, the language and interpretation of them are Capt. Knollys's.

The compiler and critic complains of the extant military literature relating to the period as scanty and unsatisfactory; but this authentic narrative, although doubtless interesting in its details, throws no new light upon the history of those momentous times; its pages, however, bring forcibly before the reader the varied scenes and tragic events which followed one upon another in rapid succession.

The notes selected from the journal range over two eventful years, but the public interest will be concentrated on the scenes of the first few months, when the possession of our Indian Empire hung, as it were, on a slender thread. A running commentary is supplied by the editor, without which it would be a difficult task to follow the course of events.

The extracts commence on the memorable 10th of May, 1857, at which date James Hope Grant was Colonel in command of his regiment, the 9th Lancers, then stationed at Umballa. Here the concentration of all the available European troops was ordered by General Anson, the Commander-in-Chief of India, on his learning of the outbreak at Meerut, and here he arrived himself on the 15th of May to organize the small army, which consisted of only four European regiments and two troops of horse artillery, and which two days later commenced the march on Delhi. At the same time Col. Grant was appointed Brigadier of the cavalry. General Anson was

quickly carried off by cholera, and Sir Henry Barnard, a Crimean officer of repute, took the command at Kurnal. On the 7th of June a junction was effected with Brigadier Wilson's column from Meerut, and on the following day the rebels were completely defeated at Budlee-ka-Serai: the famous siege of Delhi was forthwith undertaken by a small handful of English bayonets and a feeble force of artillery, opposed to whom was a regularly fortified town, hordes of armed combatants, a powerful ordnance, and unlimited ammunition. For weeks repeated attacks were made by overwhelming masses on the British position, whilst fever and cholera were rife. The energetic cavalry Brigadier seems to have lived in his saddle, to have been ubiquitous, and to have, on several instances, narrowly escaped with his life. On one occasion the writer of the journal says:—

"As long as daylight lasted we drove the rebels back; but when darkness ensued they got round our flanks, and two of my guns (Money's, I think) were in the greatest jeopardy. I, therefore, collected a few men together and charged the enemy. A Sepoy, within five yards of me, fired at my horse and put a bullet through his body close to my leg. It was singular he did not aim at me; but, in all probability, he thought it best to make sure of killing the horse, and that then to a certainty the rider would fall into his hands. I felt that my poor charger had received its death-wound, yet he galloped on fifty yards through the throng of rebels, and then dropped down dead. I was in rather an awkward predicament—unhorsed, surrounded by the enemy, and, owing to the darkness, ignorant in which direction to proceed—when my orderly, a native Sowar of the 4th Irregulars, by name Rooper Khan, rode up to me, and said, 'take my horse, it is your only chance of safety.' I could not but admire his fine conduct. He was a Hindostanee Mussulman, belonging to a regiment the greater part of which had mutinied, and it would have been easy for him to have killed me and gone over to the enemy; but he behaved nobly, and was ready to save my life at the risk of his own. I refused his offer, but, taking a firm grasp of his horse's tail, I told Rooper Khan to drag me out of the crowd. This he performed successfully, and with great courage."

Barnard fell a victim to cholera, and was succeeded by General Reed, who, however, relinquished the command at the end of a week, placing Brigadier Archdale Wilson of the Bengal Artillery, "who did not happen to be the next senior officer present," at the head of the troops.

Capt. Knollys ably vindicates the memories of Generals Anson and Barnard from the reproach and censure undeservedly cast upon them by Lord Canning, Sir John Lawrence, and contemporary opinion. He adds:—

"Brigadier General Wilson exerted himself to the utmost, never flagging for an instant; and though cautious, he lost no opportunity of pitching into the enemy whenever he had a chance. The rebels did not like the severe handling they had received, and though still constant in their attacks, were easily driven back."

By the 12th of September the siege batteries were completed, and as the gunners were deficient in numbers, they were assisted in their duties by volunteers from the cavalry. One battery of twenty-four pounders was entirely manned by thirty men from the 9th Lancers. The assault on Delhi, and the six days' severe fighting, 14th—20th September, which ensued, was followed by the evacuation of the town:—

"On the morning of the same day" (20th of September), "I was ordered to make a demonstration with a strong force of cavalry to the right of the city, just beyond the Ede Ghur. On reaching this position, information was brought me by a native, that the town was evacuated. I at once returned to camp, and despatched Capt. Hodson to inform the chief of the news. General Wilson forthwith ordered a force to proceed to the palace gate, and to the gate of the adjacent fort, and to blow them open. Both were found deserted, with the exception of a sentry at each post. One of them was dressed and equipped according to regulation, and was marching up and down his beat armed with a musket. In the Museum at Naples is to be seen the skull and helmet of a man who was found buried at his post in a sentry-box in the midst of lava. The inscription states the occupant to have been a 'brave soldier,' but nothing could have been braver or cooler than the conduct of these two Sepoys, who must have known that their fate was sealed. Both were immediately put to death. We now ascertained that Delhi had been evacuated during the night. India was saved; and the fearful struggle, which had shaken the nation to its foundation, was passing away like a heavy thunder-cloud from before the sun. There was no longer any danger to be apprehended from the Punjab, and we heard that British troops were fast pouring into Calcutta."

After the fall of Delhi, a column of the British, under Col. Greathed, was despatched in pursuit of the Rebels across the Jumna to Agra. Here he was superseded, by order of General Penny, by Hope Grant, who was instructed to make the best of his way to the second relief of Lucknow, where Outram and Havelock were hemmed in. On his way thither, he relates:—

"One morning, when I was having breakfast by the road-side, a coolie put into my hand a quill, which he had ingeniously fitted into a hole made in his cudgel, the aperture being so carefully closed up with a piece of wood that it was scarcely perceptible. Inside the quill was a small roll of paper, on which was written a despatch, traced in Greek characters, so that, had it fallen into the hands of the mutineers, they would have been unable to have discovered its meaning. I had almost forgotten my Greek, and I employed several young gentlemen lately from school to decipher the missive. It proved to be from Sir James Outram, written from the Residency at Lucknow, and requesting that aid might be afforded to his force as speedily as possible, as they were running short of provisions, and would not be able to hold out much longer."

On the 30th October, Grant crossed the Ganges at Cawnpore, and was joined, near the Alum Bagh, by Sir Colin Campbell, his old friend, who forthwith assumed the command:—

"On the morning of the 12th November the main body marched for the Alum Bagh. Sir Colin had previously raised me to the rank of a Brigadier-General, and he very kindly told me that he would consider the whole force under my command, he himself merely exercising a general supervision over the operations."

The details of this second relief of Lucknow and the celebrated meeting with Havelock and Outram are most interesting. The abandonment of Lucknow, the admirably-executed retreat to Cawnpore and subsequent final capture of Lucknow, with the various operations incident thereon, are fully detailed in the journal, and the remainder is only of minor interest. As soon as it was clear to Sir Colin Campbell that the whole of Lucknow was completely in his possession, and that the enemy as a combined army had ceased to exist, he broke up the British "Oude army"

into several fractions and flying-columns under brigadiers, who were despatched in whatever direction they were urgently needed. Brigadier-General Hope Grant held the most important of these commands, besides exercising the supreme supervision of military affairs in the province in Sir Colin's absence. He now received the K.C.B., and in February, 1858, was promoted to the rank of Major-General. The events of the subsequent year, although comparatively unimportant, were, nevertheless, very stirring, and found plenty of occupation in beating up the detached parties of rebels wherever congregated, and in making "daurs" or raids on disloyal chiefs near the frontier: and on the 26th of February, 1860, Sir Hope Grant, having been gazetted a Lieutenant-General, sailed for China to take command of the British forces in that country.

Memoir of William Ellis, Missionary in the South Seas and Madagascar. By his Son. With an Estimate of his Character and Work, by H. Allon, D.D. (Murray.)

By all who take any interest in Missionary enterprise, the name of William Ellis must always be associated with the work of evangelization in both quarters of the southern hemisphere, carried on for three quarters of a century by the London Missionary Society; but to many of the present generation he is known exclusively by the latest and crowning work of his life, viz., the restoration of the persecuted Church in Madagascar, an island, however, which he never personally visited until he had attained his sixtieth year.

William Ellis was born in 1794, the year before the establishment of the Society with which his life and labours were subsequently so intimately related. The child of poor and illiterate parents, his earliest days were spent in the school of hard work and poverty.

"When scarcely more than six years old he was employed at the rate of two shillings a week in winding cotton-wicks with one hand, while with the other he nursed his little brother, thus relieving his mother of a portion of her task and adding his mite to the family earnings."

The only teaching he seems to have enjoyed was a much-interrupted attendance at a small school kept by a Unitarian minister, and at twelve years of age he went to work with a market-gardener, from which time he never cost his father a penny, but contributed from his small earnings to the support of his family. We next hear of him working in the garden of a clergyman, and subsequently in some extensive nurseries at Kingsland, where he learned the art of gardening for which he had a great predilection. Subsequently a change came over his feelings. In 1814 he was admitted a member of the Independent Church, and almost immediately afterwards became an accepted candidate for foreign mission work under the direction of the London Missionary Society. "The gardener's vocation was now to be exchanged for that of the student." He pursued his studies at Gosport, under Dr. Bogue, qualifying for the ministry, little more than four months being allowed for this preparatory work.

"He returned to London to apply himself to the acquisition of some branches of practical knowledge that were justly deemed essential to his efficiency in the field of labour for which he was preparing. The amount of information and

practical skill that he succeeded in acquiring during the few months that remained before his departure from England is truly amazing. During this brief interval of only six months he made himself acquainted with the art of printing, and became expert in all its processes, from type-setting to imposing the formes and working the press. He also learned the art of bookbinding. For some months, moreover, he attended lectures in several branches of medicine and surgery, as well as the medical and surgical practice at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. Nor was scholastic learning entirely laid aside, some portion of the time being spent at Homerton Academy, where, under Dr. Pye Smith, the foundation, at least, was laid for the study of classics. In fact, he omitted no opportunity of adding to his stores of knowledge."

In 1815 the young candidate was ordained by Dr. Waugh and the following day married to Mary Mercy Moor, and within a few months he started with his wife for the South Seas. They first settled in the island of Eimeo, one of the Georgian or Windward group, where such was Mr. Ellis's linguistic facility that he could converse familiarly on any common subject in the Tahitian language within much less than twelve months. Here the Missionary's gardening experiences were of great service to him; he introduced various fruits and vegetables which have since become valuable additions to the wealth of the islands, and a source of considerable foreign trade. The next mission station the young couple occupied was Huahine, one of the Society Islands: here sugar and cotton cultivation was introduced, and, besides the preaching the gospel, a code of civil laws was drawn up and trial by jury instituted, whilst capital punishment was omitted. The Sandwich Islands were next visited, and Ellis was one of the first Europeans to visit and describe the volcano of Kiranea.

In 1824, on his way homeward, Ellis preached in many of the principal cities of America, and reached England with his invalid wife after nearly ten years' absence. Thus ended the first period of active missionary labour.

From 1825 to 1830 Ellis was actively employed as travelling agent in advocating the claims of the Missionary Society before public audiences throughout the United Kingdom, and there was not a town of any importance which he did not visit. "Successful as were Mr. Ellis's efforts on behalf of missions—in pulpits, on platforms and in social intercourse—he exerted certainly a wider, and probably a more effective, influence by his pen." In 1826 the "Tour through Hawaii," and in 1828 the "Polynesian Researches" were published, and "met with a reception unprecedented certainly in the history of missions, and not often surpassed in the history of travel." Southey reviewed the Researches in the *Quarterly Review*. Mr. Ellis also edited an annual advocating the cause of missions to the heathen, entitled 'The Christian Keepsake.'

In 1830 Ellis was appointed Foreign Secretary to the London Missionary Society, and four years afterwards had to mourn the death of his first wife. He married again in 1837 Miss Stickney, better known under her married name as the authoress of 'The Women of England,' and other works. During what intervals of relief from official work he could command he compiled the 'History of Madagascar,' which was completed and published in 1838, the 'History of the London Mis-

sionary Society' in 1844, and 'Village Lectures on Popery' in 1847. In 1841 Mr. Ellis took up his residence at Hoddesdon, near Ware, where he assumed the regular pastorate of the Congregationalists, bestirring himself with his usual energy in the erection of a new chapel, and the establishment of various schools and kindred institutions.

In 1852 reports reached England, giving a hopeful account of certain changes in the Malagasy government, and under these circumstances the London Missionary Society thought it desirable to send an agent to gain authentic information as to the opportunity for re-introducing Christian Missionaries into Madagascar. Mr. Ellis was selected and cheerfully undertook the service, and Mr. Cameron, a former missionary in Madagascar, was associated with him in the mission. The history of the restoration of the Church in Madagascar has been so fully told in recent publications that it need only be briefly alluded to. Mr. Ellis published his narrative of 'Three Visits to Madagascar' in 1858. In 1861 the heathen Queen died, and as soon as possible the veteran missionary was again in the field, and the results of his labours may be read in 'Madagascar Revisited,' and 'The Martyr Church of Madagascar,' besides which works the indefatigable labourer also edited the Malagasy Bible. Dr. Allon with justice says:

"It is not too much to say that to Mr. Ellis alone it is owing that Madagascar is at this moment a free, constitutional, and Protestant country. Christian, in any case, it probably would have become—the seeds of Christianity had been planted and had produced fruit before Mr. Ellis visited the island—but his wisdom in the great crisis of transition largely determined what character its Christianity should assume, whether that of simple spiritual truth and freedom, or that of Romish superstition and bondage; what ecclesiastical organization its churches should assume, whether that of self-regulated freedom or that of hierarchical authority; and what should be the relations of the latter to the civil government, whether those of subordination and dependence, or those of spiritual and pecuniary independence. Through his counsels and urgencies the churches of Madagascar have probably been saved from the disastrous history and issue of Established Churches in all nations. Few men in modern times have been called upon to discharge such a mission, few have possessed such a combination of qualifications for it, and few have achieved a success so disinterested and noble. To the Madagascar of future generations William Ellis will be, only in a far simpler and nobler character, what Augustine was to England, what Boniface was to Germany, what Patrick was to Ireland, with the great distinction that, unlike them, he had forged no chains to bind the Christian energies and life of the Malagasy."

Ellis finally returned to England in 1865, but not to rest upon his laurels; he ignored the fact that he was growing old. "Work was assigned to him, and cheerfully undertaken, which would have been arduous to most men in the prime of their power." Death overtook him in the midst of his labours, and after a short week's illness he died, on the 9th of June, 1872, in his seventy-eighth year, and was quickly followed by his wife, who died on the 16th of the same month.

NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

Ivan de Biron; or, the Russian Court in the Middle of Last Century. By the Author of 'Friends in Council.' (Isbister & Co.)

Not a Heroine. By Mrs. Brookfield. 2 vols. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

A Young Man's Love. By Mrs. G. Hooper. 3 vols. (Tinsley Brothers.)

Llanaly Point. By Lady Verney. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

Transmigration. By Mortimer Collins. 3 vols. (Hurst & Blackett.)

SIR ARTHUR HELPS may be said to have broken fresh ground in his present work, although it is not the first time that he has occupied himself with a Russian theme. For in his 'Oulita the Serf,' a play founded upon one of Tourguénief's stories, he confined himself to the relations existing between the peasantry and the landholders of Russia; in 'Ivan de Biron' he gives a picture of the Russian Court, and the treatment of its lordly vassals by their imperial rulers. Not a pleasant picture, on the whole, is it that he draws; for the intrigues, of which the comely and sensual Empress Elizabeth was the centre, were by no means exalted or edifying, although he has, to a considerable extent, succeeded in veiling, or at least keeping in the background, their most objectionable features. On the good points in the character of the Empress (whom the English ambassador pronounced to be too stout to be a conspirator) stress is laid; those which do not admit of favourable treatment are left all but unnoticed. With this method of portrait-painting, as applied to a sovereign who had the undoubted merit of loving much, only the sternest critics are likely to find fault; but whether it is admissible in the case of so different a potentate as Johann Ernst Biron (or Biren), Duke of Courland, and patron as well as namesake of the hero of the present tale, is a very different question. If what has generally been said of him heretofore be true, he was one of the worst of men, and his memory as fully deserves to be held in execration as that of the meanest murderer who ever perished ignominiously on the scaffold, and afterwards remained unwhitewashed; but this is a question of more interest to students of history than to devourers of fiction.

The story opens well with a brilliant sketch of the conspiracy by which the Regent Biron was hurled from what was virtually the throne into far distant exile. Then comes a charming description of the life led in Siberia by the young Ivan de Biron, who finds there the heroine of the tale, a Princess Marie, and renews in the lonely village the courtship which he commenced in the capital. A spirited account follows of the revolution, by which the Empress Elizabeth was placed upon the throne, and which, among other results, brought about the recall of Ivan and Marie, and transformed them from almost contented peasants into courtly ornaments, vexed by many troubles, and strangers to such peace of mind as they had known in the tranquil forests in which they had been wont to meet. Then comes a second exile, during which the estranged lovers enter upon a new course of life, passing through a fresh phase of sentiment, and ripening towards the reconciliation which, after a second recall from banishment, finally blends their fortunes. Such is a brief outline of the story, one which would

deserve respectful notice, even if it possessed no other merit than that of being a conscientious attempt to give life and brilliancy to what is, to most English eyes, a dull page of history; but it has many other claims upon the attention and favour of its readers, many other qualifications for deserved success. The studies of character which it contains are numerous, and they are carefully worked out, special pains having evidently been taken with the delineation of some of the minor personages, such as the gipsy Azra, or the cynic Nariskoff; but what will render the book specially attractive to the admirers, so many in number, of 'Friends in Council,' is the frequent occurrence of the shrewd observations, and the wise utterances, which give a peculiar charm and value to much that Sir Arthur Helps has written. Of such a nature, for instance, are the remarks in which, enlarging upon the sweetness of the uses of adversity, he points out with gravest irony, how excellent a remedy is afforded by exile for many mental complaints, inasmuch as "there are few things more desirable for a human being than that there should be sudden breaks in the ordinary routine of his existence," and exile affords "one of those breaks in the continuity of life which are often so serviceable to the soul,"—especially as, at the period in which Biron lived, "exile to Siberia was merely a Russian mode of going out of office," and "there are some zealots, perhaps, who, living under constitutional governments, and fondly desiring that those who govern should have more power of government, would not be sorry if there were a Siberia attached to their own country, to which the chiefs of the defeated party might occasionally be sent, instead of being suffered to remain, and thus to form a powerful and vexatious opposition, able to thwart the policy of their successors in office."

Captain Morant, R.N., whose newly-married wife was "not a heroine," had an irreverent habit of slighting the little superstitions of his neighbours. Being on shore at Gibraltar, waiting for the steamer which was to take him to join his ship, he accompanied a High Church friend, a clergyman of the "Anglican" persuasion, on a trip into the country, and was overtaken by a thunder-storm near San Roque. As they happened to be near a crucifix, the estimable Mr. Orde instantly prostrated himself before it, thereby eliciting from the Captain some remarks couched in a spirit of "Protestant narrowness." The heresy was signally avenged; for that instant a flash of lightning struck the emblem, and hurling it upon the irreverent sailor, felled him senseless to the ground. Apparently he soon recovered from the shock, Mr. Orde leaving him in his usual high spirits, and himself, much edified and impressed, proceeding to Central Africa, there to eradicate fetishism, image-worship, and other errors of the heathen. But a remarkable train of consequences was to flow from this occurrence, which the Captain at the time thought little of, and soon ceased to remember. The lightning, or the crucifix, or both, positively knocked out of his head all remembrance of the important fact of his recent marriage to a young and beautiful lady. When Mrs. Morant (formerly Catherine Wrexmore, and sister of a peer of that name) writes to her strangely-silent husband a series of passionate appeals, she receives them back unopened, with an intimation that there must

be some mistake, and that Captain Morant is unacquainted with the writer! It is remarkable that, with the exception of an abortive journey to Malta, neither Mrs. Morant, nor her numerous relations, take any steps to solve this unpleasant mystery until the Captain's return after a two years' cruise, when a little inquiry brings the story of the accident to light. In the meantime, Mrs. Morant resides in her brother's house, and during his absence on the Continent is much consoled by the attentions of a certain Henry Ormonde, a fashionable lady-killer, who very nearly seduces her into matrimonial infidelity, and then finding himself attracted by another face, has the meanness to request her assistance in explaining the terms of their intimacy to her rival. In the end Morant dies, and Ormonde being very properly rejected by Margaret Alwyn, condescends to console the unhappy little Catherine, who has been patient under all the experiments which he has made upon her heart, and is also suffering the pangs of remorse for the inconstancy she displayed to the faithful but deluded sailor. There is not, our readers will conclude, much value in the plot, and there is no attempt in the book at anything which can be called a moral; but the style is not ungraceful, and many of the subordinate characters are well sketched in a superficial sort of way. Lavinia Ogleby is blunt and strong-minded, still a woman, of whom we should have liked to have seen more. Mrs. Scudamore, with her airs of diplomacy, Marion Wrexmore, with the unpretentious reality of the same, are clever enough outlines. Of the men, Mr. Alwyn is rather amusing; and a good notion is given of Paul Ogleby, the sensible, energetic family friend, when, on his father and cousin going to Lloyd's to ascertain whether or not he has been drowned at sea, Marion naturally, but forgetfully, exclaims, "So provoking! why could not Paul have done it?"

Mrs. Hooper's novel is emphatically a solid one; it is long and minute, and deals with an enormous multiplicity of characters. It involves the history of four generations, some young people coming to marriageable age in the lifetime of their great-grandfather. We do not say this is impossible, any more than the noble stipend of 1,400*l.* a year, with which the living of Briarleigh is endowed; but both facts go to show how exceptionally favoured is that interesting town. It is situated, we are glad to notice, in the east of England, a district whose natural beauties are not remarkable, but better deserving of a *sacer vates* than is often supposed. Of the topography of Briarleigh we are informed with an accuracy which is very unusual in modern novels, and which is one of many indications that there is nothing "scamped" or slipshod in Mrs. Hooper's work. Indeed, she errs, though it is a generous error, in the other direction. She is so resolved on thoroughness; every local detail, every character, however subordinate, is to be so carefully completed, that the moral perspective is a little confused, and there is some difficulty in grasping the leading features of the tale. This defect is most noticeable in the earlier volumes; and the story gains in interest as it approaches its completion. The character of Dr. Baxter, as we follow it from boyhood to his death, is a noble one, and loses nothing in its

interest from the simplicity of his career. In the end it stands out adequately from the crowded canvas, and we see the real proportions and relations of those under its influence. Vain, coquettish Kate was a poor ideal for such a man, but even she is the better at last for having been idealized. The cross-purposes of life have often been more graphically dealt with, but seldom in a more thoughtful spirit; and we feel that if our author has a keen perception of the mistakes and weaknesses of human nature, she has also a just view of the tardy compensations of the world. While in its main purpose the book is a wholesome and suggestive one, its execution indicates the possession of some literary ability. We have noticed certain of its defects—an exaggeration of the sound principle of carefulness in detail, leading to occasional tediousness and the undue prominence of trifles,—an excessive multiplicity of actors, whose parts, though never absurd, are often trivial, and a lack of vigour of style and eloquence of expression; but it contains not a few passages showing descriptive power, and nowhere is it marred by bad taste or vulgarity. The discovery of Dick Baxter's body in the garden turret by the unusual activity of the birds about the open window, and the scene in which the elder Baxter is acquainted with the news of this other son's miserable end, are instances of ability. We are confident that there are good hopes of Mrs. Hooper, and have, therefore, been at some pains to be candid in pointing out her defects.

Lady Verney gives us in her volume a picturesque tale of Welsh rural life at the beginning of the century. Coming into such close juxtaposition with Mr. Black's novel, it provokes comparisons which are rather trying, in regard to descriptions of wild scenery and of the life of a simple population. In these points we may fairly say that Lady Verney's work is good, even tried by so high a standard. The other features of the tale are so dissimilar as not to admit of such comparison. The farmer of Llanaly, a hill farm on an island promontory jutting out into a stormy bit of the Atlantic, with his household of natural and adopted relations, is settled on the ancestral acres, which have belonged to the family time out of mind, and which, joined to his old blood and comparative prosperity, render him an object of affectionate admiration among his simple-minded neighbours. Owen is a Welshman of the better type: warm-hearted, honest, and hospitable; prejudiced, of course, against the Saessenag, his experience of whom is certainly unfavourable; and litigious on principle, regarding his feud with David Hughes about the Quillet, an infinitesimal piece of waste land, to which he clings with the true Celtic attachment to the soil, as a sacred trust bequeathed him by his forefathers, the due fulfilment of which is his central point of honour, more valuable to him than life itself. His family consists of his maiden sister, Bridget, a shrewd managing housewife, whose one anxiety is her brother's hobby of the lawsuit; Grace, her niece, a gentlewoman in her simple courtesy and kindness of heart; Gwen, the handmaid; and Winifred Caladine, an English orphan girl, to whom the good Welsh farmer has constituted himself guardian and protector. When poor John Caladine was cast up drowned on the Llanaly reef, and

Owen learned the tale of his widow's wrongs and desolation, he promised at her death to be a father to the girl. Winifred, accordingly, much against her will, is brought from the northern town in which she was exposed to some danger at the hands of those who had ruined her parents' worldly prosperity, and takes up her abode in a place which she regards as the acme of desolation, and among people upon whom she looks down with the contempt of ignorance for the novelty of their speech and manners. She has not outgrown this girlish shallowness when Piers, her host's cousin from Liverpool, a master mariner, and a man who has seen the world, comes to break the monotony of life at the sequestered farm. Piers is at first rather repelled, then curiously attracted by Winifred, whose angularities are more piquant to him than the steady excellence of his loving cousin, Grace; so they spar and quarrel, interesting one another, and teaching unconsciously a good many lessons to each other. Before he goes to sea, Piers brings things to a climax, and is considerably crushed by a refusal. Winifred has been playing at love already, and thinks she left her heart in the Black Country, in the keeping of one Fred Harrison, son of the old wharfinger, who foreclosed and ruined her parents. A strange fate brings him to Llanaly on the very day she has rejected Piers. On seeing him again her eyes are opened. His brisk vulgarity is out of place among the mountains; and she discovers, too, the purely commercial nature of the bargain he proposes for her acceptance. There are, in fact, awkwardnesses in the pecuniary relations between the Harrison firm and the orphan, which make it worth his while to recollect the old love passages. So Piers is rejected for Harrison, and Harrison for Piers. The true lover departs on a long voyage with bitterness in his heart, and Winifred remains to learn at leisure the real sentiments of her own. The process is well described, and is the leading motive of the remainder of the story, which is diversified also by the wreck and hardships of poor Piers (sent to Valparaiso in a coffin, heavily insured); the changed fortunes of Owen, who loses his lawsuit; and the visit of Winifred to the enemy's camp, the home of her relations, the Hugheses. These curious specimens of the Principality are in every respect a great contrast to her earlier friends; Mrs. Hughes, with her high English and robes of state, and her nephew, David, the "widowman," who is "creat for the chapel," both do their best to keep Winifred among them, and the wooing of the latter is highly amusing. In the end, of course, all things turn out well. Piers returns; certain documents of importance to Winifred's fortunes are discovered by Owen in a wrecker's cottage, where they had lain since her father was washed up on that shore; and, but for the disappointment of Grace, who is worth a hundred of Winifred, the story closes happily. Among many excellent descriptive scenes, we may mention the Crossing of the Herds (i.e., the swimming of the cattle across the straits before the bridge was built); the narrow escape of Piers from being engulfed in the sands of the same estuary; and the interview of Owen with the old Welsh crone about the deeds. The two latter incidents, remind us a little of similar ones in 'Redgauntlet' and 'The Antiquary.' On the whole, this novel

will be read with pleasure by all who can appreciate an unhackneyed subject and a graphic pen.

With characteristic audacity Mr. Mortimer Collins has struck out a new line, and enlarged the field of fiction to a degree which should be highly acceptable to embarrassed novelists. Hitherto death or matrimony has been the recognized end at which all writers aim, and when either goal has been attained, the pleasure or the toil of both the author and his readers is supposed to be complete. Mr. Collins disdains such limits, and, killing his hero and heroine at the end of the first volume, gives us in the second the hero's experience of another world, and in the third brings him back to earth, on Pythagorean principles, to be united happily to his early love, who re-appears as her own grand-daughter! As the planet Mars, to which Sir Edward Ellesmere retires during his season of obscurity, is a festive place, a good deal like earth, without the ordinary difficulties of existence, we experience no thrills of awe or misgiving as to the profanity of thus transcending the ordinary limits of experience, the only drawback to the enjoyment of the excellent company we meet in that rendezvous of poets and *bons vivants* being, that we do not quite escape the influence of modern slang, which sits somewhat strangely upon Homeric gods and heroes, and seems out of place in windy-streets Troy. As there is a thread of plot running through this curious medley of extravagance, we may observe that the autobiographer whose history is unfolded to us begins his strange career as a man of fashion in the reign of George the Third, and that the opening volume contains a narrative of his adventures during the primary stage of his existence. In the first scene of the triptych, if we may so call it, though it contains a great deal of the balderdash and swagger for which our author is notorious, his better side comes out in stronger relief than usual. In the next volume Mr. Collins gets rid of his body, which is always a little too much for him, and, stimulated by the company of all the creative geniuses of the past, runs riot in the wildest freaks of fancy. If anything further is required for aliment in Mars than the feast of reason and the flow of soul, it is found in the admirable pills of that planet, which contain one or two oxen boiled down in each, and in the marvellous pyrogenic water, a draught of which contains all the properties of all the hock, champagne, claret, burgundy, and beer which poets have swilled, in fact or fancy, since the creation of our world. How great a gain to the continuity of the narrative is involved in this provision, Mr. Collins's readers may imagine. In other respects, as we have hinted, there is a strong family likeness between Mars and Earth. Its pleasures consist chiefly in an open-air life and cheerful conversation, much freedom of manners, and an absence of anything like toil or trouble. It is not, perhaps, the highest conceivable Paradise, but is clearly adapted to the author's taste. Three remarkable peculiarities are to be noted. In the first place, there is no *Saturday Review*—an exemption which, if we mistake not, Mr. Spurgeon has also regarded as a desirable probability. Next, there is no curiosity in Mars; analytical philosophers have, therefore, no place in that Valhalla, and mechanical inventions are but little esteemed. Lastly, ingratitude is impos-

sible, for every wish being immediately gratified, and money being unknown, there is nothing to be grateful for. During Ellesmere's planetary existence, he is gratified with a sort of delirious dissolving-view of past ages and countries, and holds interviews with the most incongruous groups of heroic and poetical worthies. He talks Lempriere with Paris, hendecasyllables with Catullus, prophecy with Cassandra, mysticism with Epimenides and Merlin. We cannot say that we gain much from their utterances, or that the information they bestow transcends in value that of similar great spirits at a modern *séance*. Indeed, like the familiars of the tea-table, they are occasionally inaccurate, as in the confusion about Achilles. However, they are genial spirits, and the scenery of their present abodes delicious in the extreme. It is not our purpose to enter in detail into the third phase of our hero's transmigration. Catching sight of earth one day he wishes himself back, and instantly finds himself an infant, and, as he has the benefit of former experience, he avoids his former follies, and benefits by having already passed a lifetime on earth.

THE LITERATURE OF RUSSIA IN 1873.

SOME of the Russian journals are doing a very useful thing in the way of literary statistics, by publishing not only the number of their subscriptions, but the residences of the subscribers, and thus enabling us to learn something of the comparative enlightenment and the tendencies of inhabitants of various districts. I have passed through whole provinces of Russia where the chief newspaper taken was the *St. Petersburg Gazette*, through others where rarely anything could be found except the *Son of the Fatherland*. The *Messenger of Europe*, by far the best monthly journal, for the present year issued 6,958 copies of each number, of which 131 were sent abroad. In 1872 the issue was 8,003 copies, with 102 sent abroad. The cause of the falling off is that the journal has now received two warnings, and that people are afraid to subscribe for fear another warning should be given which would stop it, and they should thus lose their journal and their money. The *Russian Past*, an historical monthly, on the contrary, has constantly increased in circulation since it started. In 1870 its circulation was 2,600 copies; in 1871, 3,500; in 1872, 4,252; and in the present year 4,920 copies. The comparatively great subscription-list of this journal, as well as of the *Russian Archives* and the numerous publications of the various historical societies, are proofs of the increase of a taste for history. On the 6th of December, at the unveiling of the statue of Catherine the Second, a decree of the Emperor was issued to the Cæsarevitch, as President of the Russian Historical Society, thanking him for his services, and authorizing the Society to add to its name the title "Imperial." On the same day the Society published the eleventh and twelfth volumes of its *Proceedings*, the former containing letters of Peter the Great, and the latter containing the first part of the despatches from the British ambassadors during the reign of Catherine the Second, from 1762 to 1769, to which reference has already been made in the *Athenæum*. The despatches are

printed in both English and Russian, and as pictures of court life and court intrigue, they are of the highest interest. It is easy, however, to see that the ambassadors knew nothing of Russia outside of the Court circle. Another book called out by the same occasion is the collection of letters of Catherine preserved in the Imperial Public Library, published by Bytchkoff. Unfortunately for literature, there are many collectors of historical materials, but few writers of history. The time has not yet come in Russia to write even the history of the last century, to say nothing of this. But the materials are becoming accessible to the student. Such are the fifth volume of the 'Vorontsoff Archives,' relating to the time of Elizabeth; the 'Archives of South-West Russia'; Prof. Gerye's 'Collection of Letters and Papers of Leibnitz relating to Russia and Peter the Great'; the memoirs of General Mayefsky, entitled 'My Time'; and those of Prof. Berg, relating to the Polish insurrections. The monograph of Zabelin on the history of Kuntsovo, though interesting reading, must be considered as material; the second volume of his 'Essays' is better as literature. The twenty-third volume of Soloviev's 'History of Russia,' though it perhaps fulfils its end in giving us something to read in the way of a chronicle of the reign of Elizabeth, from 1749 to 1755, is hardly more than a transcript of materials. We must read it because we have nothing else; and yet we had almost rather remain in ignorance, so dry and disagreeable is Soloviev's style. Kostomarov, on the contrary, writes history that can be read with pleasure, and we welcome his new book, 'Russian History in the Lives of its Chief Actors,' as a great boon. The first part covers from the tenth to the fourteenth centuries, in twelve vivid sketches. Kostomarov writes for general readers, and gives no place to theories or discussions, but, in a simple and flowing style, tells the early history of Russia as his severe studies and earlier investigations have made him understand it. He very sensibly begins with Vladimir, and leaves entirely out of sight the untrustworthy traditions of Rurik. Prof. Kostomarov's pen is never idle, and during the year, besides other things, he has also published an excellent monograph on the 'Traditions of the Earliest Russian Chronicle.' Among other historical works, we may mention the second volume of the 'History of the Academy of Sciences,' by the late Mr. Pekarsky, containing interesting biographies of Tredyakofsky and Lomonosoff; the 'History of the Reunion of the West-Russian Uniates in Old Times,' by the well-known archæologist Koyalovitch, chiefly from unpublished manuscripts; the monograph of D. Y. Samokvasof on 'Ancient Russian Cities,' an attempt to investigate the origin of the Russian 'town,' in which the author's zeal for his subject seems to outrun his discretion; the studies on the 'Posen Poles in 1848,' and on Galicia, published in the *European Messenger*, and the valuable 'Russian Genealogies,' destined to fill in part the omissions in the imperfect work of Prince Dolgoruky. Another book of great use to the historian and student is the 'Index to the Names of Persons and Places occurring in the Collection of Russian Laws from 1649 to 1825.'

Turning from history to law, we find what

is, perhaps, the capital book of the year, and which should speedily find a French or German translator, 'Consuls and Consular Jurisdiction in the East,' by F. Martens, Professor of International Law in the University of St. Petersburg. It is an historical treatise on the origin and history of the consular institution, and the powers which by custom and treaty have been given to consuls in the East. Mr. Martens criticizes the judicial reforms in Turkey and Egypt, and endeavours to answer the question as to what should be the necessary powers of a consul in the East at present. At a time when the Egyptian Government is using all its efforts to have the consular jurisdiction abolished, such a book as this of Mr. Martens is invaluable. Mr. Znamensky, in a thick book published at Kazan, on 'The Parish Clergy in Russia since the Reform of Peter,' shows the gradual decline of the system of leaving the election of the clergy to the parish, and treats of the radical reforms of the last years, which go back nearly to the first principles of Russian church government.

In general literature the year just past has been poorer than any for a long time. None of the great writers has published anything—at least, worthy of himself—and we have had only the productions of authors of the second or third class, and of some new men whose rank in literature is yet to be determined. The preference is, perhaps, to be given to Soltykoff, who writes under the pseudonym of Stchedrin. He is a satirist of the first order, but it is to be regretted that his talents are entirely at the service of a certain party or school, which prevents him from taking broad enough views to write a really great work. His 'Tashkentians' struck a vein, and had a great success. The Tashkent of Stchedrin has nothing to do with Central Asia, but lies everywhere, and his Tashkentian is a synonym for a diffuser of enlightenment without education or basis, a civilizer for the personal and practical advantages to be obtained by the work. Curiously enough, Tashkentians in this sense are as numerous in America as in Russia, though there they are called "mere sound on the main question." "Pompadours" are, however, rarely to be found out of Russia. This is another of the terms invented by Stchedrin, which immediately hit the popular sense, and forms the theme of his last book. It is impossible to translate it, but a short journey in the interior, with proper introductions to the authorities, would soon enable one to comprehend its meaning. Count Salhias is a new writer, but his two tales, 'The Deserters' and 'Germans and Countrymen,' forming a single romance of the times of the rebel Pugatcheff, show that he has considerable talent in the style of Count Leo Tolstoi and Flaubert. His name will doubtless be heard again. The tendency toward taking the scenes of novels from low or middle life has nearly run its course, and Markevitch, in his 'Marina,' comes back again to the nobility. His story, though good, is not equal to his last. Karazin, in his 'Hunt for Luck,' brings in some of the same characters as in his previous novel, 'On the Distant Frontiers,' though the faults of that book are exaggerated in the present. Karazin is a man of undoubted talent, though he is an artist rather than a novelist or a dramatist. Consequently, his books are a series of excellent

pictures of Central Asiatic life, but utterly disjointed and lacking unity. Their truth is wonderful, and in spite of the changes in Tashkent life, many of the characters and scenes can be recognized at once. If Karazin would only write carefully for five years under a severe yet sympathetic criticism, he would probably stand in the front rank of Russian writers. The books of Avsenko, Dmitrief, and Boborykin, hardly call for serious criticism.

In the drama, we have this year two plays by Ostrofsky, 'Late Love' and 'Snowhand,' the latter a dull piece of bad verse, more like a ballet programme than a serious play. Palm has published a play of some merit, called 'The Old Gentleman'; Averkief, a new historical drama in verse, 'Temnii and She-makha,' which lacks the freshness of his other pieces; and Pisemsky, a play, called 'Baal.' This last has elicited much adverse criticism, but is, nevertheless, a remarkable production. Its theme is, of course, the power of money, but its treatment is unusual, and more suited, perhaps, to the present age, for money conquerors, while honest probity is discomfited. Except some short ballads of Count Alexis Tolstoi, the only poetry of the year worth mentioning is 'Russian Women,' by Nekrasov, which is almost equal to his earlier works. A 'Chrestomathy' of Russian poets, by Gerbel, is an attempt to make an anthology which will be historically interesting and suit all tastes. Selections are given from 120 poets. The complete edition of the works of Khemnitz by Grot, with a biography, should be mentioned here, and also the remarkable essays on Pushkin, by Annenkov, as well as the 'Materials for Pushkin's Biography,' by the same author.

Of popular poetry, we have a large instalment in the 'Onega Ballads,' collected by the late Prof. Hilferding, who unfortunately died in the midst of his labours. Afanasieff's collection of 'Popular Tales' has long been a rarity, and we are glad to welcome a new edition, entirely re-arranged. It had been prepared for the press before the author's death. Other works on the subject of folklore are Buslaeff's, 'The Comparative Study of Folk Life and Poetry,' and an 'Essay on the Comparative Study of the Western and the Russian Epos,' by A. Kirpichnikoff. The book of Pypin, 'Characteristics of Literary Opinions of the Present Century in Russia,' has now appeared entire, after having had the misfortune to procure for the *European Messenger* a second warning, and to cause the election of its author to the Academy to be cancelled. It is a most interesting and remarkable book. The 'Religions of the East,' by Prof. Vassilief, treats of Buddhism, Daoism and Lamaism, and their present status.

Political literature is increasing in Russia. The 'National Question in History and Literature,' by A. Gradofsky, may be taken as an exposition of the views of the Slavonophiles. The 'Sketches of Our Administrative, Judicial and Public Systems,' by E. Karnovitch, have been previously published in various newspapers as leading articles, and are carefully and conscientiously written, forming a valuable contribution to the study of the questions of the day. 'Questions of State Economy,' by A. Golovatchef, the author of the remarkable

book, 'Ten Years of Reforms,' consists of collected articles on the budget and financial subjects. The book on the 'Theory and Practice of Banking,' by a young writer, J. Kaufmann, is for Russia a very extraordinary book. But the most noteworthy book on political subjects is the 'War and Revolution,' by the Academician Bezobrazov, which is not only a study of the French Revolution but a true treatise on contemporary politics. Besides this we should speak of 'Our School Question,' by Baron Korf, and 'Our Military Questions,' by General Fadeief. The second volume of the thorough and careful work of Matthäi, 'Die Industrie Russlands,' has also appeared.

Two or three volumes of the new Russian Encyclopædia have been issued; but the articles on Russian subjects are not so good as they should be. We cannot help looking with more anxiety for the 'Dictionary of Russian Contemporaries,' by Suvorin, which is already announced as in the press.

The 'Philological Investigations,' by Grot, forms a valuable contribution to Russian philology. Mezhoff's various catalogues and monographs must not be forgotten by anyone interested in Russian bibliography.

In the literature of travel we have the first volume of the travels in Turkestan and Central Asia of the naturalist Severtzof,—a book of travel in Spain, Egypt, Arabia, and India, by Skalkovsky; and the entertaining story of 'A Russian Workman on an American Plantation.' The Imperial Russian Geographical Society on the occasion of its jubilee published an account of its twenty-five years' activity. A new volume of the 'Geographical Dictionary of the Russian Empire,' edited by Semenov, and two volumes on the juridical customs of South-West Russia, are among its other publications. Since 1856 the Geographical Society has been issuing a translation of so much of Ritter's 'Erdkunde' as relates to Asia, with notes and additions bringing it down to the present time. The first three volumes were edited by Semenov; the last two on Kabulistan and Kabristan, and on Eastern Turkestan, by the well-known orientalist Grigorief. We have now another volume of this series by Grigorief, which is, however, entirely original, and should properly bear the title of 'A History of Eastern Turkestan from the Earliest Times to the Present.' This book deserves to be translated into English, especially at a time when the English are so much occupied with Kashgar, of the importance and wealth of which they have, by the way, most erroneous and exaggerated notions. Grigorief published also during the year an amusing sketch of a fantastic campaign against Khiva, written under the pseudonym of a Kirghiz Sultan. It was directed against the Khivan Expedition, and events showed that the author's views were right. Col. Veninkof, the Secretary of the Geographical Society, has published, in one volume, his lectures before the Staff Academy and his articles in the *Military Review* 'On the Russian Boundaries in Asia.' It is furnished with maps, and is important not only for geography, but more so for the history of Russian advance in Asia.

Russian literature has this year suffered a loss in Fedor Ivanovitch Tutchev, a graceful and pleasing poet, and a warm friend of literature. He wrote little, but that little is good. He died in July, at the age of seventy. His

early life was passed abroad in the diplomatic service, and since 1857 he was at the head of the foreign censorship. The death of Prof. Katchenofsky, of Kharkof, a well-known writer on international law and kindred subjects, will also be felt.

EUGENE SCHUYLER.

MINOR POETS.

Poems. By W. D. Howells. (Boston, U.S., Osgood & Co.)

Dreamland, and other Poems. By R. Phillips. (Longmans & Co.)

The Song of a Pilgrim: Home and other Poems. By John Dawson Hull, B.A. (Nisbet & Co.)

Loose Pebbles. By Thos. Farrar, jun. (Sutcliffe.)

The Shepherd's Garden. By William Davies. (Low & Co.)

Hints of Horace. By Horatio E. Maddeling. (Pickering.)

Obiter; or, Wayside Verses. By R. K. Bolton. (Bemrose & Sons.)

Poems. By Isa Blagden. (Blackwood & Sons.)

WE have lately had several little volumes of very satisfactory verse from America, among whose authors Mr. Howells seems to us worthy of honourable mention. He cannot be looked upon, indeed, as the founder of any new style of poetry, and the following extracts will show who may be regarded as his masters:—

Know again the losses of disillusion?
For the sake of the hope, have the old deceit?
In spite of the question's bitter infusion,
Don't you find these mulberries over-sweet?
All our atoms are changed, they say:
And the taste is so different since then:
We live, but a world has passed away
With the years that have perished to make us men.

This bears the stamp of Mr. Browning as clearly as the following does that of Heine:—

He falters on the threshold,
She lingers on the stair:
Can it be that was his footstep?
Can it be that she is there?
Without is tender yearning,
And tender love is within:
They can hear each other's heart-beats,
But a wooden door is between.

—while the poems, of which there are several, in hexameters, show traces of the inspiration which Mr. Longfellow borrowed from Goethe. Still they are good examples of the various schools, and, after all, one cannot expect a master more than once or twice in a generation. 'The Faithful of the Gonzaga' is a charming story, charmingly told, and 'Avery' a very powerful one.

Mr. Phillips, when at his best, gives us diluted Morris, a very unobtrusive sort of entertainment. He is very fond of a full stop in the middle of the line, and makes great play with "ruth" and "bale," auxiliary verbs and double negatives, and the other forms of speech peculiar to the style. A course of Chaucer would do him good.

What possible commendation can we give Mr. Hull's poems, except that they are exceedingly well-intentioned, and that, being also exceedingly pious, the author's good intentions will, we are sure, come to no bad end. There is a trace of liberality about the book, for Mr. Hull speaks of Pascal the Catholic, and Newton and Milton the Arians, as among those who have embraced the necessary "scheme of faith." There is also a touch of originality, as where he says of the Bible,—

The banian of books, its roots
O'er all the earth perennial shoots.

For the rest, we have only to add that there is such a dead level of merit in the poems, that it is difficult to select any one passage for quotation. The fairest course will be to open the book at hap-hazard, and see what comes. This is our first find,—

If, as we travel in the train,
Mid regions old or new,
The landscape through one window-pane
Presents a dreary view,
We straightway through another look, &c.

That, perhaps, is enough; but we will try once more. This time it is a sonnet on 'The Happy.' We can only give four lines,—

When I reflect upon a phase of things
So full of care, disquiet, and turmoil,
Of deeds that cause one's very blood to boil,
Of griefs that pierce the heart with careless stings, &c.

On the whole, this last seems rather a favourable specimen, and we can conscientiously recommend the book, with its 228 pages, to all, who are satisfied with verses of the same calibre. The list of "Corrigenda" is sadly large, and not particularly creditable to author or to printer.

Mr. Farrar is also one of those writers whom we prefer to judge out of their own mouths. Here are some stanzas from a piece headed (most appropriately) "Suggestive Lines":—

But when they neared the British Isles,
A dreadful storm came on,
And in a moment, so to speak,
Their mighty fleet was gone.
They knew not that beneath our seas,
Such dreaded armies slept,
As those on which their boasted ships,
By sudden death were swept.

(Please observe the use of the comma.)

They stoved their sides, and quickly sank
Into a watery grave,
Long ere our noble countrymen,
Could lend a hand to save.
Of you but train your mind aright,
You very soon will learn,
In meanest scenes of every day,
True merit to discern.

We fear it would take a great deal of training to make us discern any in Mr. Farrar's poems.

We hardly know what to say of 'The Shepherd's Garden.' It does not profess to be more than a close imitation of the purely artificial style of the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth centuries. As such it is exceedingly successful, and many of the shorter pieces would have a charming effect set to music by Mr. Sullivan or Signor Pinsuti, and sung by Mr. Leslie's choir. But it is only poetry in the sense in which a Latin or Greek prize poem may be so called, for even if its language be nearer akin to our own than that of Sophocles or Virgil, it has no touch of nature like those which make all true poetry akin in all ages. How far the "pastoral style" was ever a real exponent of the existing lines of thought or imagination is hard to say; but it certainly has no place in the nineteenth century.

Who "Horatio E. Maddeling" may be "when he is at home," we do not know; but, from his style and matter, we are inclined to connect him closely with the author of a volume of verses called 'Sick Rhymes for Sad Times,' or something of that kind, which we reviewed some three years ago. Of 'Hints of Horace' we can only say that, as far as we can get any idea out of its exceeding obscurity, it seems to consist chiefly of personal and scurrilous attacks on the Bishops, from which we infer that its author is a Ritualist. The last piece of doggerel in the book, having reference to a bishop lately deceased, is in the most execrable taste, made none the less so by the absence of the buffoonery which characterizes the rest of the book, and which in this is replaced by an appearance of seriousness. Unhappily, gentlemanly feeling has almost disappeared from the humorous productions of the only ecclesiastical party which still has any humour left in it; nor is their wit ever so scurrilous as when directed against those whom all their principles should lead them to reverence, the Bishops. There is very little of the "vafer Flaccus" about the pseudonymous lampooner who takes his name.

Mr. Bolton's religious poetry is such as might naturally be written by a clergyman possessed of a turn for metre. We have no fault to find with it, unless it be that it shows rather too strongly the influence of the late Father Faber, whose somewhat mawkish sentimentality has, for a certain class of minds, and that no exceptional one, an attraction which is far from healthy, and which we do not desire to see extended. Number 17 of the volume before us shows this influence in a very marked manner; and in others the author himself seems to be conscious of it. A smaller matter, but one which we hope he will look to in future, is the abominable Americanism of writing "labor," "Savior," and so forth. If we must put up with this in American books, we will at least

do what little we can to keep it from becoming naturalized here.

Except Mr. Howell's little volume, Miss Blagden's are the only other poems in our present batch the printing of which we do not consider lost labour. On the whole, though she seems to have been to some extent a follower of Mrs. Browning, the bent of her mind must have resembled a good deal more that of Mr. Clough. There is the same intense love of natural beauty, especially the beauty of Italy, together with the same unwilling uncertainty of religious belief; evidently in both minds the centre about which all feeling revolved. Mr. Alfred Austin prefaces the book with a short memoir of the authoress, which bears out to a great extent the impression which would be formed from her poems. We may add that Mr. Austin has discharged his task gracefully, and we are glad to find that electioneering does not take up all his spare time. For his information, we may also mention that Gray, not Gay, is responsible for the statement that "a favourite has no friends."

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

The Little People; and other Tales. By Lady Pollock, W. K. Clifford, and Walter Herries Pollock. With Illustrations by John Collier. (Chapman & Hall.)—These are lively fantastic nonsense stories, intended quite as much for the grown-up persons of the authors' acquaintance as for the little people of the nursery. The "little people" in the book are fairies, and they go about and talk and think very much like human beings seen under the glass of good-natured ridicule. It seems as though we had read something like the "Ball" amongst the "Flowers in the Conservatory" in one of Hans Andersen's stories long ago. The peculiar delicate quaint breath of railleury, which he has caught and echoed like a note of music, cannot be imitated with advantage. Those who try to reproduce it always indulge in exaggeration, which results in a touch of vulgarity intended to be comic, and fairy tales ought not to take any mortal mixture into their delicate fabric. The story by Lady Pollock, called 'Twitterings at the Fountain,' is the prettiest in the book.

The Stories they Tell Me; or, Sue and I. By Mrs. Robert O'Reilly. (Gardner.)—A thoroughly delightful book, full of sound wisdom as well as fun. The book contains the story of the childhood and girlhood of two sisters, told as recollections, by the elder one, to her own children in after years—the different little histories being recalled to memory by the sight of some object with which the incidents were associated, such as the "Kettle," "Violets," "Sixpences," and "Cowslips." Almost everything has some connexion with long-ago events which happened in youth, and which now shine with a fairy brightness from the domains of tender memory,—the real and only fairy land of life.

The Violets of Montmartre; and other Stories. By Madame Eugène Bersier. Translated by Mrs. Carey Brock. (Seeley, Jackson & Halliday.)—This is a collection of interesting stories, which are excellently translated from the French. It is good and profitable for English girls to vary their interests in reading, and these French stories will show them incidents in the lives of girls under other environments than their own.

A Needle and Thread: a Tale for Girls. By Emma J. Barnes. (Edinburgh, Nisimo.)—Why this should be called especially "a tale for girls" it would be difficult to say, except that "girls" are not supposed to be exacting on the score of good sense in their story-books. 'A Needle and Thread' is a mildly sensational story about a lost child, who goes through many hardships before she is discovered by her sorrowing relatives. It is not a very good tale, and we should be inclined to class it as idle reading, but there is no other harm in it.

Thwarted; or, Ducks' Eggs in a Hen's Nest. By Florence Montgomery. (Bentley & Son.)—'Thwarted' is a pretty readable story. It will not excite tears nor any painful emotion, but the

interest with which the reader will follow Bill in his artistic efforts, and his sister Bessie in her unpretending genuine self-deni, will not flag. The poor old hard-working mother, whose virtues are the foundation of the success of her children, though she would rather have seen them like herself, when no book would ever have been written about them, is quite as interesting to the reader as the children who so much perplex her. More work might have been put into the tale with advantage. It is too slight and unfinished to carry out the design to its full effect.

The Robin's Nest; and where do you think they Built It? A Truthful Tale, by a Clergyman's Wife. (Griffith & Farran.)—These robins built their nest inside the big Bible in the reading-desk of an old church. A pretty story might have been made of the materials, but the authoress has overlaid her tale with so much rubbish and so much affectation, that we fear all the little children who receive this book will feel as much ill used as if they were to find rules of grammar and questions of geography on the top of a Twelfth Cake! The good lady preaches in season and out of season, and is generally foolish in what she says.

Easydale: a Story. By Edis Searle. (Seeley, Jackson & Halliday.)—'Easydale' is an interesting novelette, with quite as much love and marriage as is good for young people. It is about many other things besides, and it may be useful as well as pleasant to the young girls for whom it seems to have been chiefly written.

Sweet Flowers. By Mrs. Mackarness. With Coloured Illustrations. (Routledge & Sons.)—These are little stories, each one with a flower for its text or title. The last, which bears the portentous name of 'Deadly Nightshade,' is the one we like the best; but Mrs. Mackarness must take care to keep her stories for children clear of all that would take them into the domain of novels. She has a little tendency to stray in that direction.

Eighty Years Ago. By H. Cave. (Hatchards.)—'Eighty Years Ago' is a tolerably interesting and a perfectly safe story to give young persons of about fifteen, if, in these days, young people can be found who will read anything sober and unsensational, like this work, with a great deal of good sense in it, and a little bit of fiction, just enough to carry on the reader's interest in the personages. For girls who are at all tempted to be led astray by the attractions of Ritualism and Sisterhoods, this story may prove a counteracting influence. The intention of the work is to warn girls against the doctrines of Romanism, and the temptation of seeking picturesque-looking work out of the sphere of home and parents, instead of doing the duties assigned to them in that state of life to which they have been born. The arguments against Romanism will seem good, sound and convincing to those who are not Roman Catholics to begin with: we hardly think Roman Catholics will be turned by them to a different way of thinking. There is a slight running thread of allusion to the events of the first French Revolution, but there is not much local colouring to make 'Eighty Years Ago' different from to-day.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Theology.

Blackwood's (S. A.) Victory of Faith, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl. lp.
Brewer's (J. S.) Endowments, &c. of the Church of England, 2/6
Christian's Penny Magazine, Vol. 1873, cr. 8vo. 1/6 cl.
Hicklin's (J.) Church and State, cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.
Nicholson's (M.) Family Prayers, 12mo. 3/6 cl.
Parish Magazine, Vol. 1873, 8vo. 2/6 cl.
Taylor's (Rev. C.) Dirge of Coheleth, in Ecclesiastes xli., 8vo. 3
True Catholic (The), Vol. 1873, royal 8vo. 1/2 swd.
Well (The) is Deep, or Scripture Illustrating Scripture, 2/6 cl.

Law.

Dowell's (S.) Income-Tax Laws, 8vo. 12/6 cl.

Fine Art.

Parker's (J. H.) Archaeology of Rome, Vol. 1, 2 pts. 8vo. 21/ cl.
Smith's (F. J.) Eighteen Etchings of Rural Scenery, 4to. 5/ bds.
Wedgwood's Memorials, by E. Meteyard, folio, 68/ cl.

Poetry.

Gibbs's (W. A.) Arlon Grange, 8vo. 10/6

Music.

Sacred Songs, Ancient and Modern, ed. by J. Hiles, roy. 8vo. 2/6
Sacred Songs, edited by J. Hiles, royal 8vo. 4/ cl.
Training School Song-Book, edited by A. D. Thomson, new edit., without Sacred Songs, royal 16mo. 2/ cl.

History.

Curwen's (H.) History of Booksellers, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Esplanade's (F.) Lancashire Worthies, large-paper edit. 7/6 cl.

Geography.

Pelton's Illustrated Guide to Tunbridge Wells, cr. 8vo. 1/ swd.
Post-Office London Directory, 1874, royal 8vo. 38/ cl.
Tinne's (J. E.) Wonderland of the Antipodes, royal 8vo. 16/ cl

Philology.

Hahn's (F.) Child's French Book, 3rd edit. royal 16mo. 3/ cl.
Morrison's (T.) Text-Book of English Composition, 12mo. 1/6 cl.
Walker and Webster's English Dictionary, with Key, new edit. 8vo. 4/6 cl.

Science.

Armour's Iron and Heat, 2nd edit. 12mo. 2/6 cl. lp. (Weale's Series.)

Garden Oracle, 1874, 12mo. 1/ swd.
Medical Directory, 1874, 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Muter's (Dr. J.) Key to Organic Materia Medica, cr. 8vo. 5/6 cl.
Pink and Webster's Course of Analytical Chemistry, 12mo. 2/ cl. swd. (Weale's Series.)

Rankine's Half-Yearly Abstract of the Medical Sciences, Vol. 53, cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.

Rankine's (W. J. M.) Manual of Machinery and Millwork, 2nd edit. cr. 8vo. 12/6 cl.

Snath's Elementary Botany, 18mo. 1/ cl. swd.

General Literature.

Argosy, Vol. July to December, 1873, 8vo. 5/ cl.
Bayly's (Mrs.) Long Evenings, cr. 8vo. 4/6 cl.
Bedford's (E. H.) Examination Guide, Vol. 2, 8vo. 4/ cl.
Busch's (W.) Max and Moritz, 8vo. 3/ bds.
Child of the Chosen People, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.
Field's (M. B.) Memories of Many Men, cr. 8vo. 10/6 cl.
Good Stories, 30th Series, cr. 8vo. 1/6 cl. limp.
Good Stories, Vol. 1873, cr. 8vo. 5/ cl.
Lillywhite's (Jas.) Cricketer's Annual, 1874, cr. 8vo. 1/ cl. swd.
Lytton's (Lord) The Parisians, Vol. 4, cr. 8vo. 6/ swd.; complete, 4 vols. cr. 8vo. 26/ cl.
Mahony's (M. F.) Chronicles of the Fermors, 2 vols. 8vo. 24/ Out of the Depths, 12mo. 2/6 bds.
People's Magazine, Vol. July to December, 1873, roy. 8vo. 4/6 cl.
Planché's (J. R.) Pursuivant of Arms, cr. 8vo. 7/6 cl.
Waverley Novels, People's Edition, Vol. 13, 12mo. 1/6 cl.

M. FRANÇOIS VICTOR HUGO.

It is but just that we should notice M. François Victor Hugo, the translator of Shakespeare, who died last week, in the prime of his life, after a prolonged and painful illness. The Hugos have been, indeed, heavily afflicted: Eugène, the poet's younger brother, died in a mad-house, after giving promise of a brilliant future. M. Victor Hugo has lost successively his only remaining brother, his daughter, his wife, and his two sons; so that towards the close of a magnificent career he remains alone amidst the tombs of those he cherished. All will sympathize with his affliction. François Victor Hugo, his last remaining son, was born in 1828. But for the overwhelming burden of his name, he might have taken rank among the most earnest and conscientious writers of his time. His first attempt in literature was in a paper founded by M. Victor Hugo.

François Victor followed his father to Guernsey, and there, during long years of melancholy exile, he devoted himself wholly to a work which will preserve his name to posterity. He was for twelve years engaged on his translation of Shakespeare's complete works; and he at length gave to his countrymen a rendering of our great poet which in all respects surpassed previous attempts, not excluding M. Emile Montégut's translation, which is saying not a little. From 1867 to within two years of his death, he was one of the most thoughtful and effective contributors of the *Rappel*. So free from all ideas other than those of the highest kind were his pleadings in favour of the Republic, that the Empire could never find a plausible pretext for proceeding against him. Beyond the works we have mentioned, and an interesting history of Jersey and its monuments, his productions are few and of little importance. But this apparent sterility explains itself: to have translated Shakespeare so admirably as François Victor Hugo did is enough to occupy the life of a writer of merit. It is a noble task, but as arduous and painful as would be that of translating the 'Comédie Humaine' into English. Few men could carry it out, and François Victor deserves the gratitude of France for the fervent devotion with which he completed the work.

Mr. Swinburne has kindly sent us the following sonnet. Our readers will understand that the allusion in the first two lines is to Prometheus:—

TO VICTOR HUGO.

He had no children, who for love of men,
Being God, endured of gods such things as thou,
Father; nor on his thunder-beaten brow
Fell such a woe as bows thine head again,
Twice bowed before, though godlike, in man's ken,
And seen too high for any stroke to bow
Save this of some strange god's that bends it now
The third time with such weight as bruised it then.
Fain would grief speak, fain utter for love's sake
Some word; but comfort who might bid thee take?
What god in your own tongue shall talk with thee,
Showing how all souls that look upon the sun
Shall be for thee one spirit and thy son,
And thy soul's child the soul of man to be?

COPYRIGHT IN TITLES.

You have, on various occasions, opened your columns to communications complaining of the difficulties and perplexities arising out of the absence of any available register of titles. The letter of "A Novelist" in your number for December 20, only narrates a very common experience. There is, at present, no mode of ascertaining whether a title has been forestalled except the clumsy and inadequate one of inquiring, amongst the booksellers in the Row, whether they know it or not. The Stationers' Company take our registration-fee and make no return; for their register is so kept as to be absolutely worthless for purposes of reference. The consequence is that authors and publishers are constantly mulcted in heavy sums for their unconscious infringement of copyright; and certain firms, of evil repute in the trade, have been accustomed to levy black mail upon all who, however innocently, have had the misfortune to put themselves within their grasp. Having been myself a sufferer on more than one occasion, I venture to suggest the following arrangement as likely to meet the case:—

1. Make the registration of title, at or before the time of publication, necessary to the acquisition of copyright. At present this is left doubtful in the Act itself, and depends upon the construction put upon it by Vice-Chancellor Kindersley.

2. In consideration of the increase of income which would thus accrue to the Stationers' Company, reduce the existing registration-fee, say, to one half.

3. Require the Stationers' Company to keep an alphabetical register of titles, with the date of registration and name of the publisher; such alphabetical register to be open for search on payment of the present shilling fee.

4. To prevent the wholesale, indiscriminate entry of mere phantom titles on the chance of their being used some day, if the book be not published within one year of the date of registration such entry to be null and void.

I have discussed this plan with various publishers and editors, and find that it meets with general approval. A Member of Parliament, who takes a deep interest in literary matters, thinks that such a measure would be likely to gain legislative sanction, and is prepared to submit a bill to this effect in the forthcoming session if supported by an expression of feeling in its favour by the parties interested in it. S. M.

'THE PEOPLE OF INDIA.'

December 22, 1873.

No wonder you were filled with astonishment at the mine of errors disclosed in Vols. V. and VI. of the work so ably reviewed by you in your issue of December 20, more particularly the fifth volume. It is true that the Afghans have a Semitic physiognomy, while the so-called "Kurals" and "Kharals" have a strong Aryan cast of countenance. A greater blunder was never perpetrated than to assert that the "Kurals" or "Kharals" are an Afghan tribe, and, if it is not corrected, we shall see them in some History of India figuring as Afghans.

Their correct name, as written by themselves, is Kharl, *خارل*; the *r* being the Sanskrit *ॠ*. They are not a frontier tribe, nor an Afghan tribe, nor,

in the most remote degree, connected with the Afghans. They are a Jat (جٹ) tribe, and a most cantankerous one; and are located in the Gugariah district of the Panjāb, between the Rāwī and the Sutlaj. There was no one better able to tell the writer, or writers, who and what the Kharls are, and where located, than Sir Robert Montgomery, K.C.B., G.C.S.I., Member of the Council of India.

The "nominal," or any other capital of the Dooranee (Durāni) empire was never either *Sarmacand* or any other *cand*, and can only exist in the writer's imagination; and "the dynasty, commonly called the *Stavelings*," is equally imaginary. The Abdālīs take their name from their great ancestor, Malik Abdāl, who lived centuries before Ahmad Shāh. Early in the sixteenth century the chief town of the Abdālīs was *Shahr-i-Saffā*; and early in the seventeenth century Hirāt was their capital, and they held it till ousted by Nādir Shāh.

H. G. RAVERY, Major,
Bombay Army (retired).

UNSUSPECTED CORRUPTIONS OF SHAKSPEARE'S TEXT.

UNLIKE the 'Venus and Adonis' and the 'Lucrece,' which were evidently printed from unsophisticated manuscript, and passed through the press with tolerable accuracy, the Sonnets carry all the appearance of having been put in type from copy much damaged, and in many places illegible. This would be the natural condition of writings which had been copied and re-copied for a dozen years, as we know these were, perhaps by a hundred scribes, for distribution among the author's private friends. At the same time, they do not appear to have been sent to press without examination by a qualified person. The metrical arrangement is remarkably free from error, and it would seem as if the editor had taken some pains to supply the deficiencies of the manuscript in other respects, although the endeavour, in most cases, ends in giving a mistaken or enfeebled meaning. The character of the misprints, indeed, points to their origin. They are seldom utterly nonsensical, or absolutely unintelligible, like the blunders of a stupid or negligent typographer, but the true expression, or what we may suppose to have been so, is superseded by another, more or less resembling it in form, but carrying a widely different signification.

The earliest Sonnets are devoted to the purpose of persuading the poet's friend to marry. The theme, infinitely diversified in expression, being that which Venus expatiates on to Adonis:—

Upon the earth's increase why shouldst thou feed
Unless the earth with thy increase be fed?
By law of nature thou art bound to breed,
That thine may live when thou thyself art dead.

The eighth of them is as follows:—

Mute to hear, why hear'st thou music sadly?
Sweets with sweets war not, joy delights in joy.
Why lov'st thou that which thou receiv'st not gladly,
Or else receiv'st with pleasure thine annoy?
If the true concord of well-tuned sounds,
By unions married, do offend thine ear,
They do but sweetly chide thee, who confounds
In singleness the parts that thou shouldst bear.
Mark how one string, sweet husband to another,
Strikes each in each by mutual ordering;
Resembling sire and child and happy mother,
Who all in one, one pleasing note do sing:
Whose speechless song, being many, seeming one,
Sings this to thee, "thou single wilt prove none."

Here the line

In singleness the parts that thou shouldst bear
appears to me manifestly wrong. The poet is comparing the harmonious oneness of a well-ordered family to the exquisite union of a well-tuned concert, and upbraids his friend for destroying this concenat music, by selfishly retaining parts which were intended to be distributed. Few, I apprehend, can doubt that we should read:—

They do but sweetly chide thee, who confounds
In singleness the parts that thou shouldst share.

Sonnet xxi.—

So is it not with me as with that Muse,
Stirr'd by a painted beauty to his verse,
Who heaven itself for ornament doth use,
And every fair with his fair cloth endues;
Making a complement of proud compare,

With sun and moon, with earth and sea's rich gems,
With April's first-born flowers, and all things rare
That heaven's air in this huge rindure hems.
O, let me, true in love, but truly write,
And then believe me, my love is as fair
As any mother's child, though not so bright
As those gold candles fix'd in heaven's air.
Let them say more that like of hearsay well;
I will not praise that purpose not to sell.

The repetition of "heaven's air" in the eighth and twelfth lines is not likely to have been the poet's. The first expression was probably caught from the second. What it superseded, is hard to conjecture. We might get rid of the displeasing iteration without injuring the idea by reading:—

That heaven's vault in *h* is huge rindure hems.

Which calls to mind:—

— It stuck upon him as the sun
In the grey vault of heaven.

Second Part of Henry IV., act ii. sc. 3.

And:—

Had I your tongues and eyes, I'd use them so,
That heaven's vault should crack.
King Lear, act v. sc. 3.

In this case, the error in all probability is due to the compositor, and not to any imperfection in the manuscript.

A very minute mistake in Sonnet xxiii. greatly blemishes the sense:—

As an unperfect actor on the stage,
Who with his fear is put beside his part,
Or some fierce thing replete with too much rage,
Whose strength's abundance weakens his own heart;
So I, for fear of trust, forget to say
The perfect ceremony of love's rite,
And in mine own love's strength seem to decay,
O'ercharg'd with burden of mine own love's might.
O, let my books be, then, the eloquence
And dumb presagers of my speaking breast,
Who plead for love, and look for recompence,
More than that tongue that more hath more express'd.
O, learn to read what silent love hath writ:
To hear with eyes belongs to love's fine wit.

The error in question is in the fifth line:—

So I, for fear of trust, forget to say, &c.

where "fear of trust" strikes me as quite irrelevant. Read:—

So I, for fear or trust, &c.

meaning, "so I from timidity, or too much confidence, have omitted to give due expression to my love."

The involved and antithetical style, which was so much admired in this species of poetry, may excuse a subsequent line which reads dubiously:—

More than that tongue that more hath more express'd;
but it may be worth considering whether Shakespeare did not write—

More than that tongue that love hath more express'd.

Sonnet xxv. presents a difficulty which I do not remember to have seen noticed:—

Let those who are in favour with their stars,
Of public honour and proud titles boast,
Whilst I, whom fortune of that triumph ba
Unlook'd for joy in that I honour most.
Great princes' favourites their fair leaves spread
But as the marigold at the sun's eye,
And in themselves their pride lies buried,
For at a frown they in their glory die,
The painful warrior fam'd for fight,
After a thousand victories once foil'd,
Is from the book of honour rased quite,
And all the rest forgot for which he toil'd.
Then happy I that love and am belov'd,
Where I may not remove nor be remov'd.

What are we to understand by the expression

Unlook'd for joy in that I honour most.

in the fourth line? I suspect it to be no other than a desperate shot of the editor or typographer to supply a word or words defective in the manuscript. "Unlook'd on" would give a meaning, though a poor one, but I have a strong presumption the line ought to read—

Unhonour'd joy in that I honour most.

See the context. Assuredly the received text is wrong.

In Sonnet xl.:—

Take all my loves, my love, yes, take them all;
What hast thou then more than thou hadst before?
No love, my love, that thou mayst true love call;
All mine was thine before thou hadst this more.
Then if for my love thou my love receivest,
I cannot blame thee for my love thou usest;
But yet be blam'd if thou thyself deceivest
By wilful taste of what thyself refuseth.
I do forgive thy robbery, gentle thief,
Although thou steal thee all my poverty;
And yet, love knows, it is a greater grief
To bear love's wrong than hate's known injury.
Lascivious grace, in whom all ill well shows,
Kill me with spites; yet we must not be foes.

—the correctness of the eighth line,—

By wilful taste of what thyself refuseth,

is open to question; and the deprivation of the tenth,—

Although thou steal thee all my poverty,
is beyond it. I have not sufficient confidence in my proposed emendations here, however, to give them publicity.

Sonnet lxvi. appears to have two misprints, which, though slight, detract from its otherwise perfect beauty:—

Tir'd with all these, for restless death I cry,—
As, to behold desert a beggar born,
And needy nothing trimm'd in jollity,
And purest faith unhappily forsworn,
And gilded honour shamefully misplac'd,
And maiden virtue rudely strumpetted,
And right perfection wrongfully disgrac'd,
And strength by limping way disabled,
And art made tongue-tied by authority,
And folly doth-like, controlling skill,
And simple truth miscall'd simplicity,
And captive good attending captain ill.
Tir'd with all these, from these would I begone,
Save that to die, I leave my love alone.

The second line must, I think, have originally run,—

As to behold desert a beggar torn,

which the editor or compositor, not being familiar with the old word *torn*, changed to "beggar born." Poverty of birth was not an insuperable bar to wealth or distinction in Shakespeare's days, and to be meritorious in despite of it is the more honourable. The contrast intended is clearly between indigent worth and pampered worthlessness.

It may be pretty confidently assumed too that the word "needy," in the next line, is a blunder. We should probably read,—

And empty nothing

or,

And heavy nothing

—comparing Sonnet lxxviii.

And heavy ignorance.—

The next Sonnet, lxvii., abounds in errors, but some have been noticed, and the rest are to me, for the present, incorrigible.

The first and last lines of Sonnet lxxxi. read to me suspiciously:—

Or I shall live your epitaph to make,
Or you survive when I in earth am rotten,
From hence your memory death cannot take,
Although in me each part will be forgotten.
Your name, from hence, immortal life shall have,
Though I, once gone, to all the world must die:
The earth can yield me but a common grave,
When you entomb'd in men's eyes shall lie.
Your monument shall be my gentle verse,
Which eyes not yet created shall o'er-read,
And tongues to be your being shall rehearse
When all the breathers of this world are dead:
You still shall live,—such virtue hath my pen,—
Where breath most breathes,—even in the mouths of men.

In the first line, I fancy,

Or I shall live,—

is a mistake for,—

Where I shall live,—

where's being the familiar contraction of *whether* in Shakespeare's days. See Sonnet lix., where we have the word in both forms:—

Whether we're mended or wh'er better they,
Or whether revolution be the same.

The construction seems to be, "Whether I shall live to write your epitaph, Or you survive me, death cannot render you forgotten."

The corruption in the last line is more obvious, and much more injurious:—

Where breath most breathes,—even in the mouths of men.

How, physically or poetically, can breath be said to breathe more in the mouth of a man than in the mouth of a whale, or a walrus. The true reading indubitably is:—

You still shall live,—such virtue hath my pen,—
Where breath most kills,—even in the mouths of men,

—the sarcasm being altogether lost by *breathes*, which crept in through the similar words in the vicinity.

H. STAUNTON.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

December 29.

THE December publications have, to a certain extent, atoned for the literary barrenness of a singularly dull year. We feel a slight revival—we, I mean, whose principal support are the things of

the spirit: not, I am anxious to add, because any masterpiece has been born among us, but because there is something to read, and we are not reduced to the diet of M. Villemain, that *laudator temporis acti* who used to say, in a pedantic extreme of misanthropy, "*Je ne lis plus, je relis.*"

The "passage" of gift-books has been favourable. It is truly a passage like that of the quails, the woodcock, and the waterfowl, and those little events watched by the sportsman which form a good or bad augury. People say, for example, "Wild ducks have been passing over Paris since the middle of October: the winter will be a severe one." In the same fashion, on seeing that the gift-books are not books of mere amusement or profitless splendour, but that they all tend to instruct children, young and old, I conclude, not without probability, that our disasters have done us good, and that we are becoming a reasonable people. Yesterday, in the drawing-room of a lady of fashion, whilst waiting for the mistress of the house, I amused myself by making out a list of the novelties of the season heaped at random on a table. Will you believe me when I assure you that there was not a novel among them, except the 'Voyage au Pays des Fourrures,' which, after all, is but a lesson in ethnography pleasantly disguised? Two books, translated from the English, 'The Land of Desolation,' by Dr. Hayes, and Mr. Henry Stanley's 'How I Found Livingstone,' a true book of a true man, accompanied the volume of M. Verne, who is probably an Englishman himself, to judge by his subjects, the use he makes of his materials, the seriousness at bottom, and the humour which plays on the surface. The mistress of the house caught me just as I was opening with astonishment a large illustrated octavo on the 'Application de la Physique.' "What," said I to her, "you are reading this book?"—"Yes, and I have also read the two former works of the same author, 'Le Ciel,' a treatise on astronomy, and 'Les Phénomènes de la Physique' of Amédée Guillemin."—"Do the laurels of the Marquise du Châtelet trouble your slumbers?" I inquired. "Do you wish to become a *savante*?"—"Heaven preserve me from that! But I feel the need of being a little less ignorant than I am, and I am grateful to respectable publishers like the Hachettes and Hetzels, who wrap up in a gilded pill the little dose of science that my poor, weak constitution can assimilate."—"Ah! you are talking like a doctor."—"That's because I am only a learner. The real doctors express themselves more simply: they have banished from their vocabulary the long words which appalled the laity."—"Are your friends inspired with a like zeal?" I asked.—"Not all; but many are. What would you have us do at a time like this? The salons are shut, the Opera-house burnt, nobody writes a novel worth reading: to kill the time let us educate ourselves; that will enable us to watch more closely the education of our sons."—"So much the better—so much the better," I replied. 'L'Espagne' of Baron Ch. Davillier is the worthy pendant of the 'Rome' of M. Francis Wey. Within two years of one another, two observers, clear-sighted and cultivated men, have had the rare good fortune to immortalize upon paper two civilizations which were on the point of disappearing. After the Rome of the Pope-kings, monarchical superstitions, sceptical Spain! I know the two authors personally, and I can assure you that neither the one nor the other foresaw the events which were destined to add a hundredfold to the interest of their books. They commenced them ten years ago at least, when the two most backward civilizations in Europe seemed to have still a tolerably long future before them. These magnificent quartos will have for posterity the sad and irresistible charm of two portraits executed *in articulo mortis*.

The book of M. Davillier is enriched by three hundred engravings, after designs by Gustave Doré. You know Doré. He is at least as popular in London as in Paris. To me, who have never lost sight of him since he was scrawling his first sketches on exercise-books at the Collège Charlemagne, these illustrations of Spain seem among

his best productions, among those in which he is absolutely himself. It has been at once the good and the evil fortune of this strange genius to have succeeded too soon. He was still *en rhétorique* when Philipon, the publisher, brought out his first work, an album of caricatures of the labours of Hercules. The public found in it such cleverness, such good-humour, and such astonishing facility with the pencil, that they adopted the child,—and one saw, incredible prodigy, an artist of seventeen earning his bread! From the moment of his *début*, Doré had nothing but success, and success of more than one sort, for nature has been bountiful to him. He played the violin like a laureate of the Conservatoire; he sang with a beautiful *tenorino* voice, in such a way as to deserve the applause of Rossini; he was as great an athlete as the most muscular undergraduate of Oxford or Cambridge. His genial and loyal character disarmed envy; while his private life under his mother's roof wins universal esteem. In one word, ever since his five-and-twentieth year, his life, unique in its character, has been one long triumph, cheered by an incessant toil, happy, easy, and *coulant de sources*. We Frenchmen are styled capricious, yet we have never tired of his works; we have never even shown ourselves satiated; we have never found that the author produces enough. Publishers of prints, of journals, of books, have not for one moment ceased plaguing him. I have seen him over and over again finish a design on wood while the publisher's messenger was waiting at the door. The misfortune is, that this rapid production under pressure ever since he began his career has not left him time to complete the studies which make great masters. The public expected other things of him than marvellous sketches. They laid him under an injunction, so to say, to undertake vaster and more finished works, but have not left him the time necessary. That is why I prefer his living and sparkling studies of Spain to the large designs in the Dante and Bible, where we don't find Michel-Angelo or Doré either.

Although M. Gustave Masson has made mention, in the *Athenæum* of the 27th of December, of the 'Lettres à une Inconnue,' I hope you will allow me to return to the subject. Two volumes of letters written by Mérimée, a whole romance, the heroine of which has chosen to hide her name, that is enough to furnish plenty of occupation to lovers of good French and investigators of mysteries. First let me say that the form of this singular work is as chaste, as delicate, as correct, as that of the best productions of the author; that in it he shows a wonderfully free and vivacious judgment, carried to the point of rudeness, a singular contempt for men in general, and the official world in which he lived in particular. This characteristic is so striking, that one is tempted to ask what possible reason took him into such society; and why, looking on the Senate as a parcel of incapables, he became a senator? Was it for the pleasure of leaving 30,000 francs a year to two elderly ladies who soothed by their attentions the sorrows of his old age? He had no need of money, as his patrimony, 12,000 francs a year, sufficed for his simple wants. I can understand that he enjoyed, at first, the spectacle of human life in its most dazzling holiday dress; but I should have supposed that he would have had enough of it at the end of a few years, and I am really astonished that, weary and ill as he was, he endured till the last the uncouth pleasures, the folly of which he laughed at. The only plausible explanation of this anomaly lies, I believe, in a sincere and profound affection, which he concealed, like all his good feelings, from a sceptical shyness. I met him sometimes at his own house, or at the houses of common friends, but I cannot say that I knew him. He was extremely pleasant, but even more impenetrable than pleasant. A whole side of his life remained unknown even to his best friends; and if one day we learn the real truth about his nature, it will be from some woman's indiscretion. He was very handsome, very impressionable, and, without doubt, passionately loved; and he must have carried on

a certain number of *liaisons*, more or less Platonic. His executor was charged to send four rings, and he received four answers, one of which was written in the hand which re-copied for the publisher the 'Lettres à une Inconnue.' But the executor is a cautious man, and he will tell nothing more than this. The Parisian world is racking its brains to find out the name of the heroine. Madame de M. was first mentioned; then Madame de B.; after her, Mlle. d'A.; and, finally, one of your countrywomen, called R. S.; but the first two theories cannot bear examination, and there are serious objections to the two others. Taine, who wrote a very nice essay as an introduction to the first volume, is no wiser than I on this delicate point; and Dumas *filz*, who has little liking for insoluble problems, remarked to me at dinner the other evening, that Mérimée was great at mysteries, and capable of writing two volumes of letters to posterity, under cover to a person who had no existence. I greatly doubt if he pushed his malice so far; had he written for the world, he would have concealed his foibles better and talked less about his health.

Since I have written close together the names of Taine and Dumas, one word in conclusion about the Academy. Three elections are promised for the 29th of January. The candidates are numberless. The old house is besieged by an army of professors, and even by some writers. Were my advice asked, I should say, "Take Dumas, Taine, and Weiss, and send the rest back to the Collège de France." But the Academy has nothing to ask of me, nor I of the Academy. Taine was certain of his election a fortnight ago, in spite of the hatred of the clerical party, who will never forgive him; but lately the Republican liberals have learned that he is engaged on a book, in which he shows little sympathy with the French Revolution, and this work, still unpublished, is likely to cost him dear. As for Dumas, he remembers the injustice with which the Academy treated his father; and after having kept long in the background, he will not declare himself a candidate, unless in real earnest. One of his friends, M. Legouvé, is to reconnoitre the ground to-day or to-morrow, and see if there is a majority ready. However matters may turn out, the Academy will do wisely not to trifle with the authors who knock at its door, for neither Dumas nor Taine is of the stuff of which perpetual candidates are made, and were they to fail once, they are capable of leaving the place wholly to the pedants.

EDMOND ABOUT.

Literary Gossip.

OUR readers will remember that in 1856 appeared the Memorials of Henry Cockburn, one of the Judges of the Court of Session in Scotland, containing many graphic and piquant sketches of the men and women of his day. The volume ended with the year 1830, and, although nothing more was promised, it was known by Lord Cockburn's friends that he had continued his diary until 1854, the year in which he died. This continuation is now in the press, and will be published by Messrs. Edmonston & Douglas before Easter.

WE believe that the real meaning of the fuss at Eton is, that Dr. Hornby thinks that the little boys who need to be managed would fare best under the control of masters of experience, while the big boys, who wish to compete for scholarships, would be best taught by young men fresh from the Universities, whose Latin and Greek have not had time to grow rusty. Dr. Hornby has as yet, however, taken no decisive step towards the attainment of this apparently reasonable object.

WE understand that Prof. Cairnes will shortly publish a work on which he has been

for some time engaged, and which will contain new expositions of some of the leading principles of Political Economy. Amongst other subjects treated of in the volume will be the doctrine of Value, the relations of Labour and Capital, with an investigation into the power of Strikes to influence Wages, the functions of Trades Unions, &c. The volume will also contain an examination of the principles of International Trade, and, in connexion with this, a criticism of protectionist theories as advanced by American writers.

THE first issue of books to members of the Hunterian Club, for the second year, is almost ready, and the delivery will be made early in 1874. It will comprise the following:—Alexander Craig's 'Poetical Essayes,' 1604; 'Poetical Recreations,' 1623; 'Pilgrime and Heremite,' 1631; 'Miscellaneous Poems,' and Introduction by Mr. David Laing; Samuel Rowlands's 'Diogenes Lanthorne,' 1607, and 'A Fooles Bolt is soone Shott,' 1614; and 'The Bannatyne MS.,' 1568, Part I. In addition to these, there will be sent out, Richard Niccoll's 'Sir Thomas Overburie's Vision,' 1616, with Introductory Notice by Mr. Maidment, of Edinburgh, which is presented to the members by one of the Council of the Club. There will be a second issue for the same subscription, but to what extent will of course depend on the money in hand. The under-noted works are all in progress:—'The Bannatyne MS.,' Part II.; Samuel Rowlands's 'Letting of Humors Blood in the Head Vaine,' 1600; 'A Terrible Battell' [1602?]; 'Marti-Markall,' 1610; 'The Miracles of our Lord and Saluour Jesus Christ,' 1618. The Council has announced to the members that one of its number has offered to defray the entire cost of the reproduction of 'The Nightingale. Sheretine and Mariana. A Happy Husband. Elegies on the Death of Queene Anne. Songs and Sonnets, by Patrick Hannay, gent. London, printed for Nathaniel Butter, 1622.' The original is of very great rarity; Archdeacon Wrangham's copy brought 40*l*. With the exception of the 'Songs and Sonnets,' sixteen copies of which were thrown off by Mr. Utterson, at the Bel-dornie Press, Hannay's works have never been reprinted. The volume consists of 132 leaves, and will be issued with the books for the third year.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY will have ready in the spring a new volume of Songs and Poems, under the title of 'Music and Moonlight.'

PROF. A. W. WARD's forthcoming book on the 'English Drama,' to be published before long by Messrs. Macmillan, is, we hear, to be a full account of the *Origines* of our Drama; and a section is devoted to each of the more important names among our dramatic writers. Perhaps we may mention that Prof. Ward's studies have lain for years among German subjects of all kinds, and not least among German criticisms of the Drama; but we are told that his chapters on the *Origines* are the working out of a quite independent view.

THE pleasant story called 'Ladybank Junction,' which appeared a month or two back in *Blackwood's Magazine*, is from the pen of Mrs. Oliphant.

PROF. M. BURROWS, Chichele Professor of Modern History at Oxford, is about to bring

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out a work on the 'Worthies of All Souls' College.'

MESSRS. WILLIAMS & NORGATE will publish shortly the Reports to the Trustees of the British Museum on the Utrecht Psalter, by Mr. Bond and Mr. Thompson, of the MS. department, and also by Canon Swainson, the Rev. H. J. Coxe, of the Bodleian, Mr. Digby Wyatt, Prof. Westwood, and others. Several fac-similes of the Psalter, taken by the autotype process, will accompany the work.

MR. FURNIVALL has found, in the City Hustings Rolls of Deeds and Wills, enrolments of three deeds in 1372 and 1373, by a Henry Chaucer, vintner, and Juliana his wife, daughter and heiress of John le Botyner, but has not yet been able to trace the connexion between this Henry Chaucer and Geoffrey the poet, though, as the latter would have been forty-two or forty-three in 1372-3, Henry may well have been Geoffrey's brother or cousin. With regard to Thomas Chaucer, the City Rolls have as yet furnished no evidence of his relationship to the poet; indeed, a deed of entail of certain property on him, by his "consanguineus," "Willelmus Chaumbre, clericus," dated 12th of March, 1406, tends to disconnect Thomas from Geoffrey Chaucer. On the other hand, the purchase of a reversion in certain lands in 1413 by Thomas Chaucer (esquire), Henry Somer, John Cornwaleys, John Tyrell, and Lewis John, makes Mr. Furnivall believe that all these men were trustees for some Corporation in the City. Another conveyance to Thomas Chaucer and twelve other men, all of them described in one place as citizens and vintners, though in another place Thomas Chaucer and another of the twelve are called esquires, leaves no doubt that the whole thirteen were trustees for the Vintners' Company. Thomas Chaucer is thus connected with Geoffrey's father's and uncle's company, though not as Geoffrey's son, Mr. Furnivall thinks.

PROF. KARL ELZE, the author of a Life of Lord Byron, is going to publish a translation into English of some essays on Shakespeare. Writing the name reminds us that Herr Elze's last essay is another discussion of the often discussed orthography of Shakespeare's name. Another is on 'Shakespeare's Supposed Travels,' and one on 'Hamlet in France.' The aim of the volume is to unite the wide scope and ardour of the so-called Transcendental school of criticism with more modern methods, historic and comparative; and it consists of complete accounts in this sense of some of the main dramas, and of elucidations of more incidental departments of the story of the poet and his period. The publishers are to be Messrs. Macmillan.

WE recommend this note to the attention of the Editor of *The Day of Rest* :—

"*The Day of Rest*, for December 6th, opens with a poem by Dora Greenwell, entitled 'A Story of Canada.' The same poem appears in the volume of *Good Words*, for 1861, under the heading, 'The Emigrant's Daughter.' I promised that I would bring the complaint before your notice.

PATERFAMILIAS."

THE new edition of Dr. Whitaker's 'History of Whalley,' which was under the editorship of the late Mr. John Gough Nichols, will be completed by the Rev. Ponsonby A. Lyons. At the time of Mr. Nichols's decease more than 300 pages of the second and concluding volume were in type.

A WORK of considerable local interest will shortly be published, entitled 'Memorials of the Streets of Manchester.' It will contain a number of illustrations, consisting of views of streets and buildings which possess historic interest. Mr. Thomas Sutcliffe, of Manchester, is the publisher of the volume.

WITH the gay and brilliant crowd of Christmas books appear the grave blue covers that indicate "Reports and Papers." The November flight of these winged words is not, indeed, numerous; but a larger and more important flock darkens the more distant sky. In plain English, the Parliamentary Reports and Papers for November are seventeen in number; amongst which the Report of the Commissioners as to Patents for Inventions for the year 1872, with plan, and the 51st Report of the Commissioners of Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues for the year ending 31st of March 1873, are the most noteworthy. The Papers by Command are six, including the First Report by the Director General on the Education of Officers in the Army. Lists are appended of the Commercial Reports from H.M. Consuls, from H.M. Secretaries of Embassy, and Reports from H.M. Consuls on British Trade Abroad, amounting in all to 113, and containing a vast mass of most useful information.

M. J. PH. BERJEAU is preparing for the press a fac-simile reprint, with introduction, French and English translations of a Dutch narrative of the second voyage of Vasco de Gama to the East Indies. The book, unknown to bibliographers, was printed in Antwerp, circa 1504, 4to., and is now in the British Museum.

THE death is just announced of Mr. Edward Hyde Clarke, who was fifty years ago a prominent writer on West Indian questions.

THE Early English Text Society will issue to its members in January, in its Original Series, No. 56, 'The Gest Historiale of the Destruction of Troy,' translated from Guido de Colonna, in alliterative verse, and edited from the unique MS. in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, by Mr. D. Donaldson and the late Rev. G. A. Panton, Part II.; No. 57, 'The Early English Version of the Cursor Mundi,' in four texts, from MS. Cotton, Vesp. A. iii. in the British Museum, Fairfax MS. 14 in the Bodleian, the Göttingen MS. Theol. 107, MS. R. 3, 8 in Trinity College, Cambridge, edited by the Rev. R. Morris, Part I., with two photo-lithographic fac-similes by Cooke & Fotheringham. In its Extra Series, No. 20, Henry Lonelich's 'History of the Holy Grail' (translated from the French prose of Sires Robiers de Borron), re-edited from the unique MS. in Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, by F. J. Furnivall, Esq., Part I. The Society has the following books in the press for its Original Series :—'The Lay Folk's Mass-Book,' four texts, edited from the MSS., by the Rev. T. F. Simmons; 'Palladius on Husbandrie,' englisht (ab. 1420 A.D.), edited from the unique MS. in Colchester Castle, by the Rev. B. Lodge, Part II.; 'The Blickling Homilies,' edited from the Marquis of Lothian's Anglo-Saxon MS. of the tenth century, by the Rev. Richard Morris, with a photo-lithograph; 'Merlin,' Part IV., containing preface, index, and glossary, edited by H. B. Wheatley, Esq.; 'Generydes,' a romance, edited from the

unique MS. (ab. 1440 A.D.) in Trinity College, Cambridge, by W. Aldis Wright, Esq., Part II. And these for its Extra Series :—'Barbour's Bruce,' Part II., edited from the MSS. and early printed editions by the Rev. W. W. Skeat; 'Early English Pronunciation,' with especial reference to Shakespeare and Chaucer, by A. J. Ellis, Esq., Part IV.

IN his Annual Report the Librarian of the United States Congress mentions, the American papers tell us, that 12,407 volumes have been added to the collection during the year closing December 1st. The aggregate number of books now in the library is 258,752 volumes, besides about 50,000 pamphlets. In the copyright department there have been 15,352 entries made during the year, and the Librarian has paid into the Treasury the sum of 13,404 dollars as the receipts from copyright fees. This exceeds the entries of the year preceding by about ten per cent. The rapid growth of the library and of the copyright business of the country renders a new building to accommodate the overflowing collections an imperative necessity. While retaining in the Capitol a sufficiently large library for legislative and judicial use, Congress has already authorized the preparation of plans for a separate building, and the Commission appointed to select a plan will shortly make the award of premiums. The site of the building, however, is not yet selected.

UNDER the title of the Verein für Deutsche Literatur, has been started at Berlin an association, which will issue new works by authors of repute to its members, on the payment of a small annual subscription. Among the writers who have promised their aid, are several well-known names: MM. Gutzkow, Bodenstedt, Bluntschli, Büchner, Von Sybel, P. Heyse, P. Lindau, M. Lehmann, Vambéry, and others. The Directors are Prof. Gneist, Count Usedom, &c.

THE *Revue de Belgique* has changed hands, and is now under the management of a *Comité de Rédaction*, composed of Messrs. Émile de Laveleye, Count Goblet d'Alviella, Baron Eugene van Bommel and Ch. Potvin.

M. ABOUT, as our readers will learn from his letter in another column, declares that the name of the *inconnue* of Mémée's letters is a mystery not yet solved; still we may, perhaps, mention that current Paris gossip asserts, probably quite wrongly, that Miss Jenny Dakin is the lady to whom the deceased author addressed this long correspondence.

SCIENCE

The Naturalist in Nicaragua, with Observations on Animals and Plants. By Thomas Belt. (Murray.)

MR. BELT is a mining engineer who superintended the operations of the Chontales Gold-Mining Company, in Nicaragua, from 1868 to 1872, a most irksome and anxious duty, with much attendant worry and responsibility, in consequence of the yield of the mines being just at that tantalizing point which lies between profit and loss.

The author is more of a geologist than a naturalist, and seems besides to have studied entomology to some purpose; but although an assiduous collector, he can hardly claim to be a naturalist in the more extended meaning of

the term, and is certainly no sportsman, being more familiar with the butterfly-net than with the rifle. It is not improbable that his professional duties at the mines prevented, to some extent, the pursuit of large game which abounds in the neighbourhood; but whilst great at hunting Coleoptera, Elateridæ, and Lamellicornis, our author appears never to have seen either tapir or deer; the word "puma" does not occur once in his pages, whilst the wild hog also escaped his shot; a passing glimpse of a jaguar is styled an adventure, and affords an excuse for the frontispiece.

A Darwinian and a follower in the footsteps of Messrs. Wallace and Bates, Mr. Belt takes the latter author as his model and guide; he certainly adds a considerable amount of new information to the general storehouse of facts, besides which he is prolific in new theories, geological, meteorological and hydrographical. And first as to his facts. With regard to the distribution of the bird Fauna; the depression of the Central American isthmus occupied by the Great Nicaraguan lakes and their outlet, the San Juan river, was formerly supposed to form the boundary between the Mexican and Costa Rican sub-provinces, but from Mr. Belt's collections of bird-skins, Mr. Salvin finds that there is a larger proportion of southern than northern species, and it now appears that the great break occurs in Honduras; the valleys of Humuya and Goascoran, with the plain of Comayagua, constituting a decided interruption, cutting completely through the chain of Cordilleras.

Some remarkable instances are given of the intimate relation existing between insects and plants, amongst them we may notice one species of acacia whose hollow thorns are tenanted by ants:—

"Hundreds of ants are to be seen running about, especially over the young leaves. If one of these be touched, or a branch shaken, the little ants swarm out from the hollow thorns and attack the aggressor with jaws and sting. These ants form a most efficient standing army for the plant, which prevents not only the mammalia from browsing on the leaves, but delivers it from the attacks of a much more dangerous enemy, the leaf-cutting ants. For these services the ants are not only securely housed by the plant, but are provided with a bountiful supply of food."

So also we are told of plant lice, scale-insects, and leaf-hoppers, which furnish ants with honey, and in return are protected by the latter. Mr. Belt concludes that in many instances "the use of honey-secreting glands in plants is to attract insects that will protect the flower-buds and leaves from being injured by herbivorous insects and mammals."

Perhaps the most interesting pages in this work are those which relate the various mimetic resemblances, not only between insects of different genera and orders, but between insects and flowers, leaves, twigs, and bark of trees, and between insects and inanimate nature. For instance, there is amongst the beetles a curious longicorn, closely resembling a common hairy caterpillar, a special protection against insectivorous birds. Again, we have the moss insect, the larva stage of a species of phasma; and many species of Orthoptera and Pterochroza, which imitate leaves in every stage of decay. Many Chrysalides also have mirror-like spots that resemble holes through them, and one actually has a real hole through it. "It is to be remarked that the forms

imitated have always some kind of defence against insectivorous birds or mammals; they are provided with stings or unpleasant odours or flavours, or are exceedingly swift in flight." Thus wasps and stinging-ants have hosts of imitators amongst moths, beetles, and bugs. On the other hand, nearly all the insects that possess special means of protection have conspicuous, strongly contrasted colours; and Mr. Wallace has shown that brightly banded caterpillars are distasteful to birds. Amongst mammals the skunk is conspicuously marked; and amongst reptiles the beautiful coral snake is noxious and avoided.

Mr. Belt dwells at great length on the social instincts of ants, which have been developed to an extraordinary degree of perfection. The leaf-cutting ants are well known, but much doubt has always existed as to the uses to which the leaves are put. "I believe the real use they make of them is a manure, on which grows a minute species of fungus on which they feed; that they are, in reality, mushroom growers and eaters."

A short account is given of the gold-mining in the Chontales district, which is confined almost entirely to auriferous quartz lodes, no alluvial deposits having been found that will pay the working. These lodes or veins run parallel to each other, and are so numerous that across a band more than a mile in width one may be found every fifty yards. The gold does not occur pure, but is alloyed with silver. On the hills near the outcrops of the lodes the ore is often exceedingly rich, which is apt to lead to an exaggerated opinion of their value. When, however, these deposits are followed downwards, they invariably get poorer to a certain depth, below which they do not deteriorate:—

"The cause of these rich deposits near the surface does not appear to me to be that the lodes originally before they were exposed by denudation contained more gold in their upper portions than below, but to be the effect of the decomposition and wearing-down of the higher parts, and the concentration of the gold they contained in the lode below that worn away. This accumulation of loose gold near the surface of auriferous veins, set at liberty from its matrix by the decomposition of the ore, and concentrated by degradation, is probably the reason of the great richness of many of what are called the caps of quartz veins,—that is, the parts next the existing surface,—and has also, perhaps, originated the belief that auriferous lodes deteriorate in value in depth."

A notice of a dust whirlwind gives rise to a short discussion of the cause of all circular movements of the atmosphere, including the cyclone:—

"The conclusion I arrived at was, that the particles of air next the surface did not always rise immediately they were heated, but that they often remained and formed a stratum of rarified air next the surface, which was in a state of unstable equilibrium. This continued until the heated stratum was able at some point where the ground favoured a comparatively greater accumulation of heat to break through the overlying strata of air and force its way upwards. An opening once made, the whole of the heated air moved towards it and was drained off, the heavier layers sinking down and pressing it out. . . . This explanation supplies the force that is necessary to drive the air with the great velocity with which it moves in whirlstorms. There is a gradual passage from the small dust eddies through large whirlstorms to tornadoes and the greatest cyclone."

A disciple of Agassiz, Mr. Belt finds traces of glacier action throughout modern America,

and believes that during this glacial period the sea must have stood at least 1,000 feet lower than it now does, laying bare the fabled Atlantis, the great continent "on which the present West Indian islands were mountains" in the Atlantic, and in the Pacific the Malay continent. It is there he looks for the refuge of those genera which now occupy tropical countries, then covered with ice and snow. A few remarks on the archæology of the district, and a slight notice of the ethnology of the Mexican, Western Central American, and Peruvian races, whom he includes under the title of Nahuatlans, in contradistinction to the Caribs, whose original seat he places in his favourite Atlantis, are not uninteresting.

To Mr. Bates, who saw this work through the press, we are probably indebted for a good index; but we are surprised that the sketch-map at the end of the volume is not better: thus, Juigalpa, "one of the principal towns of the province of Chontales," is altogether omitted.

Altogether, this unpretending volume cannot fail to interest a large proportion of the reading public, besides those more especially engaged in scientific investigations connected with economic entomology.

SCIENCE SCHOOL-BOOKS.

1. *Light*.—2. *Heat*.—3. *Electricity*.—4. *Magnetism*.—5. *Chemistry*.—6. *Pneumatics and Acoustics*. By J. H. Pepper. (Warne & Co.)

HERE we have six books written to elucidate as many of the great divisions of scientific knowledge by the same author. Surely his must be really a Polytechnic mind. We have examined these books with care, and although, from a cursory glance at their pages, and their popular illustrations, we were, at first, disposed to regard them as mere attempts to make science a plaything, we soon became convinced that some of them rise superior to the ordinary run of text-books; and that although the descriptions of striking phenomena were alluringly written, yet that their philosophy in sport was science in real earnest. There is no doubt but that the experience gained by Mr. Pepper during the many years of his reign at the Polytechnic institution, where he was constantly employed in explaining to the public all that was new in science, has given him wonderful facility in describing, so as to be understood by all, the more abstruse phenomena of Light, Heat, and Electricity, and of bringing clearly before the minds of his readers, as of his listeners, the processes of chemical change and the results of analytical and synthetical investigation. The volume on "Light" of the above series is a remarkable example of this. It may be read by the young inquirer with interest, and from every page he will derive much instruction. The laws regulating the reflexion and refraction of light are satisfactorily given, and the resulting phenomena well illustrated by diagrams and other woodcuts. The more abstruse but beautiful effects produced by the polarization of light are popularized, and the truth is not sacrificed in doing so, while the conditions of spectrum analysis are concisely, yet sufficiently explained, so as to render this system of investigation intelligible to all who read with care. "Electricity" has been for so long a period one of the stock branches of science at the Polytechnic, that the author is perfectly at home in describing the experimental illustrations of the discoveries in this division of science, embracing "Magnetism." "Heat" is not so satisfactorily treated. This arises very evidently from the fact that the phenomena of heat do not admit of being so readily, so strikingly, exhibited to an audience, and hence on the part of our author an evident want of familiarity with his subject. "Pneumatics" and "Acoustics," for the very reason we have just

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given, being susceptible of striking experimental illustration, are satisfactorily treated in the volume devoted to them. With the "Chemistry" we are quite disposed to quarrel. The treatise is weak and rambling, the illustrations are far-fetched, and often entirely out of place. We know of no reason for placing a portrait of Brewster under the head of Carbon, or for giving drawings of a jeweller's machinery, and of bracelets, brooches, and earrings of 18-carat gold, in a chapter on the chemistry of that metal, unless it be to advertise the jeweller, who is allowed to describe his own merchandise. As books which promise to awaken a love for science and scientific inquiry, these volumes may be placed in the hands of the young, and of those in advanced life, who have not previously given attention to this kind of knowledge. The treatises are not sufficiently exact to be given to the student, and the reader must be on his guard lest some of them lead him into a dilettanteism of an unsatisfactory character.

Geology. By Archibald Geikie, LL.D. (Macmillan & Co.)

PROF. GEIKIE, in writing this "Science Primer," has clearly endeavoured to become as a little child, and attempted to describe things which relate to geology, as if he was about to impart the first spark of knowledge to the infant mind. "An ordinary dwelling-house, such as those in which most of us live, is built of various materials, and one of these is always stone"; and again, "merely by looking at houses and streets you may readily perceive that there are many different kinds of stone." Surely this is not the kind of knowledge which is to be imparted to the young students in any of our science schools. As we advance in the "Primer," we discover that the author finds it impossible to continue to write down to this low level, and Prof. Geikie becomes more satisfactory because he becomes himself. The middle portion of the "Primer" is a clear and generally satisfactory, because simple, elucidation of geological phenomena. What we complain of, is, that the infantile simplicity of the beginning adapts itself but very imperfectly to an ending, which tells the child that "we see that there has been upon the earth a history of living things as well as of dead matter. At the beginning of that wonderful history we detect traces merely of lowly forms, like the foraminifera of the Atlantic ooze. At the end we are brought face to face with man—thinking, working, restless man, battling steadily with the powers of nature, and overcoming them one by one, by learning to obey the laws which direct them."

MOUNT SINAI.

DR. BEKE, who has reached Alexandria, writes to us:—

"During my journey from England I have been looking into the 'Travels in Egypt,' &c., of Capt. Irby and Mangles (Murray, 1868), which my companion, Mr. Milne, has happened to bring with him—a work which I may possibly have seen in an earlier edition in years gone by, but of which I have no recollection—and to my surprise and delight I have lighted on the two passages which are here transcribed. The one is in page 115, describing their departure from Gharundel, between Kerek and Petra, on the east side of the Ghor, the prolongation of the valley of the Jordan south of the Dead Sea, where it is said, 'Our road was now S.W. and a white line in the desert, at a distance to the left, as far as the eye could reach, was pointed out as the hadj road to Mecca. We noticed three dark volcanic summits, very distinguishable from the sand. The lava that had streamed from them forms a sort of island in the plain.' And in the next page, on their arrival at Showbec or Shobek, they say, 'We had a most extensive view from here, comprising the whole skirts of the desert, with the volcanic hills which I have mentioned.'"

"As I have not a map here with me to which I might refer, I cannot comment except in general terms on the very important facts brought to my

knowledge in the foregoing extracts. But from these it appears that the travellers, when taking a S.W. course, saw to their left the road to Mecca, which, of course, bore S.E., or thereabouts, where it passed through Akaba-esh-Shami; and from the white line of this road stretching as far as the eye could reach and the more distinct description of the dark volcanic summits, with their lava field, forming, as it were, an island in the plain, the legitimate inference is that the former is more distinct than the latter: that is to say, the volcanic region lies to the west of the hadj road running along the meridian of Akaba-esh-Shami, which is in 36° E. long.

"In what parallel of latitude the same are to be placed depends on the distance the travellers were able to see, and this again will in part depend on the height of the volcanic summits and the state of the atmosphere. But it seems to be quite certain that they must be situated at some distance to the south of the parallel of Petra and Máan, which is about 30° 20' north, and that, therefore, they lie within the Harra Radjla, of which the limits are pretty accurately determined by the reports of Burckhardt and Palgrave, the former of whom appears to have skirted it on the east, and the latter on the north, as is shown in page 43 of my pamphlet. It is within the range of possibility that Mount Sinai itself is one of these 'three volcanic summits' of Irby and Mangles; but I doubt it, being rather of opinion that the mountain which 'burned with fire unto the midst of heaven' at the time of the delivery of the Law unto Moses, is a separate volcano, standing further to the south, but situate always within the same volcanic region as the other three, and forming part of the same chain of mountains of igneous origin. Under this view, the destruction of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram may have occurred somewhere on the flank of one of these more northerly volcanoes (see 'Mount Sinai, a Volcano,' p. 43.)

"In any case, the Harra Radjla, of which Mount Sinai forms a part, appears to be now shut in by the Wady Arabah on the west, Palgrave's route through Máan on the north, and the hadj road between that town and Akaba-esh-Shami on the east; and as on the south, it must necessarily be limited by the road from the head of the Red Sea eastward, that is to say, from Akaba to Akaba-esh-Shami, there can be no serious difficulty in reaching Mount Sinai from Akaba by the way of Wady Ithem, the *Etham* of the Exodus, and as I hope to have it shortly in my power to do.

"CHARLES BEKE."

SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL.—Dec. 17.—Prof. Ramsay, V.P., in the chair.—Messrs. W. T. Loveday, N. Griffith, F. D. Godman, E. T. Newton, T. W. Hilton, and the Rev. C. R. Gordon, were elected Fellows.—The following communications were read: 'Observations on some Features in the Physical Geology of the Outer Himalayan Region of the Upper Punjab, India,' by Mr. A. B. Wynne,—and 'On the Mode of Occurrence of Diamonds in South Africa,' by Mr. E. J. Dunn.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon.** London Institution, 4.—Holiday Course, Part III., Prof. Armstrong.
 — Victoria Institute, 8.—'Magnitudes in Creation,' Rev. J. H. Titcomb.
 — Surveys, 8.—'Lands Clauses Acts, with Suggestions for their Amendment,' Mr. F. A. Pollock.
Tues. Royal Institution, 8.—'Motion and Sensation of Sound' (Juvenile Lecture), Prof. Tyndall.
 — London Anthropological, 8.—'Arthritic' Theory of Rude Stone Monuments, Mr. A. L. Lewis; 'Alleged Discovery of a Phœnician Inscription in Brazil,' Mr. A. F. Jones; 'Relation of the Hieroglyphics of Easter Island to those of Central America,' Mr. A. L. Lewis; 'Language of the Aino,' the President.
 — Zoological, 8.—'Species of the genus *Synalaxis*,' Mr. Salter; 'New Polyzoa (*Hippuraria* *egertoni*),' Mr. G. Bux; 'Mycology of the *Phrynosoma coronatum*,' Mr. A. Sanders; 'Fritulaca aucticola, an apparently new species of Parrot from Eastern Peru,' Dr. O. Finsch.
 — Biblical Archaeology, 8.—'The Sallier Papyrus, containing the Wars of Rameses Meriamun with the Hittites (Hittites),' Prof. E. S. Lushington; 'Illustrations of the Book of Daniel, from the Assyrian Inscriptions,' Mr. H. Fox Talbot.
Wed. Literature, 4.—Council.
 — Colonial Institute, 7.—'Colonial Aids to British Prosperity,' Mr. P. L. Simmonds.
 — Microscopical, 8.—'Zoopores of Crustacea, &c.,' Mr. A. Sanders.
 — Geological, 8.—'Origin of some of the Lake-Basins of Cumberland,' Mr. J. C. Ward; 'Traces of a great Ice-Sheet in the Southern Part of the Lake-District, and in North Wales,' Mr. D. Mackintosh; 'Lamellibranchs of the Budleigh-Salterton Pebbles,' Mr. A. W. Edgell.

- Thurs.** Royal Institution, 8.—'Motion and Sensation of Sound' (Juvenile Lecture), Prof. Tyndall.
 — London Institution, 4.—Holiday Course, Part IV., Prof. Armstrong.
 — Royal Academy, 8.—'Painting,' Mr. C. W. Cope.
 — Mathematical, 8.—'The most General Displacement of a Solid in Space,' Prof. Crofton; 'Transformation of Continued Products into Continued Fractions,' Mr. J. W. L. Glaisher.
 — Antiquaries, 8.—Election of Fellows.

Science Gossip.

THE information that has appeared in the papers about the Expedition of the Royal Geographical Society, a though not official, comes from a very good authority at Zanzibar. The Expedition had reached Unyanyembe, and had been re-organized for a further advance. The three young British officers with the Expedition have shown great pluck and perseverance, and the public may rely on their pushing forward.

THE Académie des Sciences, on Monday, elected Mr. J. Lockyer and M. Roche Corresponding Members in the Section of Astronomy.

DR. ROHLFS's Libyan Expedition left Cairo three or four weeks ago. Col. Gordon arrived in Egypt a few days ago, and left on the 22nd for England, by the steamer Simla, *via* Brindisi. He is expected back at Cairo in three weeks.

THE fifth quarterly Report on the Sub-Wealden Exploration has been issued by Mr. H. Willett, of Brighton. The present depth from the surface is 313 feet; some important geological facts have been decided, and valuable beds of gypsum discovered. The more interesting facts are that the Kimmeridge clay is identical in deposit with that in the Boulonnais district of France, and that the Wealden estuary did formerly extend across the Channel in an unbroken continuity. The probability that coal may be found is therefore greatly increased by the discovery of strata in Sussex identical with those in the Boulonnais district. This investigation is to be continued until the depth of 1,000 feet has been reached.

M. M. A. BARTHÉLEMY has been making some very interesting experiments 'On the Passage of Gases through the Membranaceous Tissues of Plants.' The leaves of certain varieties of the Begoniaceae, which are thin on the living plant, are reduced during winter to the condition of a pellicle indurated with elasticity. Those were employed as colloid membranes, and Graham's experiments were repeated, and compared with the films of caoutchouc by M. Barthélemy. These experiments prove the dialysis of carbonic acid by the living plant through the cuticle of leaves, in a manner precisely similar to the endosmosis of membranes, or of porous vessels, in the experiments of Dutrochet and Dehérain. The details will be found in the *Comptes Rendus*, No. LXXXVII.

IN the *Repertorium für Experimentale Physik* recently M. Carl has produced some new views on earthquake and volcanic phenomena. He supposes that at a considerable depth beneath the surface, the heat may be sufficient to cause water to assume the spheroidal state of Boutigny, developing slowly vapour of great tension, which under a slight change of circumstances might become the source of enormous explosive forces.

AN admirable paper, 'On the Jade of the Kuen-lun Mountains,' has been communicated to the Academy of Sciences of Munich by Hermann von Schlagintweit, and published in the *Sitzungsberichte* of the Academy. The author visited the quarries on the Kara-kash river, which formerly supplied the Chinese with much of their jade. It may be remembered that these quarries were popularly described some time ago by Dr. Cayley. Although the title of Schlagintweit's paper refers only to the jade of Khotan, yet the author gives much information respecting the mineral from other localities, and discusses the source of the jade which is found in the pile-dwellings of the Swiss lakes. He also clearly points out the means of distinguishing true jade, or nephrite, from the closely-allied minerals known as jadeite and saussurite.

VON SIEBOLD has communicated to the same Academy the results of his researches on the

parthenogenesis, or the reproduction from virgin females, of *Artemia salina*, a curious phyllopod crustacean which makes its appearance in certain salt-pans when the brine attains a definite degree of concentration.

FINE ARTS

The SOCIETY of PAINTERS in WATER COLOURS.—The TWELFTH WINTER EXHIBITION of SKETCHES and STUDIES by the MEMBERS is NOW OPEN, at their Gallery, 5, Pall Mall East. Ten till Five.—Admission, 1s.

ALFRED D. FRIPP, Secretary.

'The SHADOW of DEATH.' Painted by Mr. HOLMAN HUNT.—NOW on VIEW. From 10 till 8.—30a, Old Bond Street.—Admission, 1s.

INSTITUTE of PAINTERS in WATER COLOURS.—The EIGHTH WINTER EXHIBITION, is NOW OPEN from 10 till 6.—Admission, 1s.—Glas on Dark Days.—Gallery, 35, Pall Mall. JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

DORÉ'S GREAT PICTURE of 'CHRIST LEAVING THE PRETORIUM,' with 'Night of the Crucifixion,' 'Christian Martyrs,' 'Francesca de Rimini,' 'Neophyte,' 'Andromeda,' &c., at the DORÉ GALLERY, 35, New Bond Street. Ten to Six.—Admission, 1s.

An Introduction to the Study and Collection of Ancient Prints. Illustrated. By W. H. Willshire. (Ellis & White.)

This book is designed to supply the want, so often felt by students of prints, of a trustworthy and comprehensive manual, or book of reference, for those who have some knowledge of the bibliography of the art of engraving, and of a guide to others who are not so well informed on the subject. Dr. Willshire has endeavoured to give a systematic summary of our knowledge of a subject which is at once widely scattered and extensive, and to furnish useful directions for tyros in print collecting. He remarks:—

"There is one drawback connected with iconography—common, it is true, to all knowledge obtained in recent years: viz., the literature of particular subjects and masters is so widely spread through ephemeral publications, as to make it frequently difficult, both to know what has been written on any given topic, and to procure special information when we are conscious that it exists. Fugitive tracts, reviews long demised, and out-of-the-way journals are obtainable often only with much trouble, and sometimes not at all. Such a library even as our own national one, may not be able always to satisfy the wants of those engaged in working out a particular subject."

Dr. Willshire is perfectly right. Everyone knows that there is no book conceived and executed in the spirit which modern criticism requires, and dealing with prints in a way at once comprehensive, exact and exhaustive. The subject is too large to be dealt exhaustively with in a single volume, or even in three; and no comprehensive and exact treatise has made its appearance in modern times. Gilpin, Cumberland, and the minor writers on this subject are now out of date. The 'Merveilles de la Gravure,' by M. Duplessis, is a mere sketch, although, within its limits, a sketch of considerable value. The translation of this book into English, which we noticed not long since, has made it familiar to many, but it is quite insufficient for more than "popular" needs. Maberly's 'Print Collector' is the best book on the subject, and it is not only rather scarce, but it is thirty years old. Dr. Willshire has done well to form his book on that of Maberly, but he has done a great deal more than was possible to, or intended by, Maberly, and he has done it with zeal, care, learning, and taste. The subject is so great and reconduces one that the reader who here and there detects errors and omissions will not be surprised, but, on the contrary, will be disposed to condone far greater and more numerous

faults than he will find in the book before us. The 'Künstler-Lexicon' itself contains an almost unparalleled mass of blunders which at the present day common industry would not fail to avert; and half the modern, and three-fourths of the old, books on Art are mere compilations, of the crudest kind, written by critics whose boast is that they are independent, because they are completely ignorant of Art. How much cause then have we to be grateful to one who, like the author, is not only in love with his subject, but a master of its history, and possesses the experience essential to the writer of a new Maberly with modern improvements. We look for the completion of Dr. Meyer's "Nagler," as the greatest desideratum in this way.

Dr. Willshire defines the term "engraving" as referring to the process of producing originals from which copies may be taken by transfer or pressure. The older process, known to scriptural and classic authorities, which we also style engraving, is literally that of incising on materials without the intention of producing copies. Our author, of course, names Aholiab and Bezaleel as the most ancient *ciseleurs* on record. These are, to be sure, the oldest known names of artists; but who shall say what is the antiquity of that process the results of which are identical with the drawings of rare merit engraved on numerous relics from the drift, bones and horns, by cave-dwellers belonging to periods which are unascertained, but which are ethnographically, if not chronologically, far more remote than the days of the decorators of Aaron's garments? Refer Aholiab and Bezaleel to their ancestors who incised horn and bone, and we get a notion of the antiquity of the craft of the engraver.

Dr. Willshire has generally abstained from citing his own opinions, "choosing rather," as he says, "to hint and suggest them while offering the conclusions at which others have arrived." We have one or two rather amusing instances of this, where, as it appears to us, our author has quoted the opinions of quacks and pretenders, in order that they may be gracefully refuted by a comparison of authorities; but he has, once or twice, to say the least of it, given currency to the conclusions of lay men and lay ladies on strictly technical matters, about which they have no right to entertain opinions. This is an undesirable practice. On the other hand, we find that Dr. Willshire has awarded the honour of criticisms and discoveries to those who have the best claim; he has not dressed other people's notions in his own terms, and taken the credit to himself. In fact, this book is an honest compilation. Our author gives abundant references to the sources of knowledge, so that the student can follow the writer and sift authorities for himself. This is especially the case when Dr. Willshire comes to consider the more important points of the history of the subject, such as the origin of the art of engraving; whether or not the ancients possessed this art. We find a tolerably full assemblage of opinions, without a decision. This collection of opinions has been carefully made, and comprises references to out-of-the-way illustrations of the subject, including the history of engraving plates of latten for monuments, commonly called monumental brasses. It would be too much to expect that on such a point as this

Dr. Willshire should have exhausted the question, otherwise we might be puzzled by the following:—"The most ancient known existing specimens were, when Mr. Boutell wrote, the brasses of Sir John D'Aubernoun, A.D. 1277 (fifth of Edward the First), and of Sir Roger de Trumpington, A.D. 1289." The fact remains as in the days of Mr. Boutell, the latest comprehensive writer on this subject: no more ancient brass than that of Sir J. D'Aubernoun I. has been found, but Dr. Willshire appears to hesitate in affirming as much.

Dr. Willshire, although declining to be critical in some cases, especially on æsthetic matters, has at times not hesitated to express his own opinion on questions which require the simple exercise of logical and discriminating faculties. For example, after giving a succinct account of the so-called 'Story of the Cunos,' circulated by Papillon rather more than a century ago, to show the comparative remoteness of the art of engraving, and after quoting *pro* and *con* on the subject, he does not hesitate to express his agreement with Chatto's conclusions on this important subject, which are adverse to the assertions of Papillon, and leave his legend about the Cunos without countenance or support. This is, of course, the common-sense view of the matter; it is also safer than the opposite opinion. In a valuable *résumé* of opinions on the history of engraving on wood, apropos of the well-known "St. Christopher" dispute, a matter which vexed the souls of men a few years since, and in which the late Mr. F. Holt made himself conspicuous by passion rather than research, we meet with the following quiet touch of satire: "The desire of the late Mr. Holt to bring discredit on Temanza by affirming that the latter simply worked up to a preconceived theory, based on the discovery of Heineken, cannot be responded to, seeing that Temanza preceded Heineken some years in his investigations." This is indulgent, but there is another reference to the same person which is much below our notions of what his troublesome conduct required: Mr. Holt is called "the persistent and ingenious, if not convincing arguer that Albert Dürer was the designer of the Fairford windows." The fact is, that Mr. Holt's argument on this subject was the reverse of ingenious; it was a string of assertions, accompanied by an ignorance of style, the testing power in this question, which accounted for the audacity of his statements. We have referred to this subject, not in order to revive the memory of the dispute, but because the false importance which the indulgence of editors of periodicals gives to these crudities is to some extent imitated by Dr. Willshire, who, with less justification, continues the same practice by devoting several pages to the vagaries of the deceased amateur on a matter the investigation of which demands the utmost patience. We think it would have been better had Dr. Willshire, in dealing with his materials, avoided quoting every opinion of every man or woman whom fortune may have compelled to write on Art. He would surely have done well to omit repeating the fancies of persons unqualified by technical knowledge to speak on matters of execution, who have discussed such difficult questions as whether or not Dürer cut blocks with his own hand. That there is great diversity in the merits of the blocks which

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conveyed Dürer's designs is unquestionable; but it does not follow from that circumstance alone that the finest pieces of wood-cutting are due to Albert himself. Mr. Reid has pointed out that Mr. Thompson, when examining original wood-blocks now in the British Museum, demonstrated that more than one hand had been employed in cutting designs which were due to a single designer. There is no reason to doubt that Dürer, like other great artists, occasionally engraved on wood; but even experts are far from being able to assert, on the internal evidence of the works themselves, what he did and what he did not do. One thing at least is quite certain, that there were wood engravers in Nuremberg about 1509, and doubtless before that date who were capable of noble work.

So much for the charge of superfluous compilation, the sole objection of weight to which this book is liable. A taste for redundancy appears also in the occasional, but quite needless, dissertations and extracts, giving opinions for and against such men as Dürer: refer to pages 209, 210, 211, 212, where Cumberland's ignorance and want of sympathy are contrasted with Mr. Hamerton's sympathy and taste. Both aspects of the question are foreign to Dr. Willshire's subject, and should not have been introduced here.

Cursory examination suggests a few matters which may be worth Dr. Willshire's attention. On page 257 he incidentally mentions *Mercurius Civicus* as the first illustrated newspaper which appeared in England, and puts the date at 1643. We are not concerned to dispute the priority of this periodical; yet it would be well to say that *Mercurius Civicus* was preceded by a countless host of illustrated tracts and broadsides, all dealing with current events, which differed but formally from the *Mercurius* and were by no means confined to a report of a single event. For example, *Old News newly Revived* dealt with "the discovery of all occurrences happened since the beginning of the Parliament," and was published two years before *Mercurius*. *A Perfect Tiurnall*; or, *Welsh Post*, with a portrait of Charles the First: "London, printed for her Welsh Post, to carry to her countrymen in Wales, 1643 (Sat., Feb. 4, to Sat., Feb. 11), 1643," may be called an illustrated newspaper, and must approach very closely to *Mercurius*. It points to other and previous issues. It is probable that the portrait of the king which decorates the last-named periodical was not new; and it is certain that that which accompanied the former made its appearance again and again. In speaking (page 345) of English engraving, "the Old-English School," as beginning with Hogarth, and numbering but few members, Dr. Willshire does scant justice to several able men whose names remain to us; for, to say nothing of the elder Faithorne, W. Marshall, and R. Gaywood, there were W. Hole, Cockson, and T. Cecil, who deserved a word from an English writer on engraving. A few misprints require correction: e.g., "Parthez" occurs more than once for *Parthey*.

MESSRS. CHATTO & WINDUS send us a welcome volume, a reproduction of the sketches by Maclise, or Alfred Croquis, representing individuals celebrated in London, 1830-8, which were published in *Fraser's Magazine*. This reproduction includes the notices

of the sketches, written chiefly by Dr. Maginn. To these are added notes by Mr. W. Bates. The book is called *A Gallery of Illustrious Literary Characters*. The drawings are, generally speaking, so well known, that we need not write at length about them. Few who care for such matters at all have forgotten the humour, strong character, and piquant satire of many of these portraits, in producing which the artist greatly surpassed his literary coadjutor; for it must be admitted that Maginn's sketches are but too often vulgar, or, rather, to use a cant literary term of modern invention, they are "greasy." Considering the fact that very few of the celebrities who formed the subjects of these sketches remain alive, they have already acquired the value of history. Their humour is of a fine kind. Look at this tailor's Adonis, Count D'Orsay, the flashy man about town: what a volume of humour there is in the slight exaggeration of his swagger. Here is William Godwin, shuffling along past that book-shop, which many "unco guid" folk actually believe to this day was a haunt of horrid reproaches—good folks who would not have been surprised if the earth, opening, had swallowed it up; there goes Godwin, with his prodigious hat, his hands linked behind his back, a voluminous "dress" coat on his body, wonderfully badly-cut trousers on his legs, and yet with a face which, as Maclise saw, had its merits,—even something that might be called beauty. Here is a good and rather caricatured sketch of Leigh Hunt, whom it was easy to caricature. Here is Westmacott, the editor of the *Age*; Captain Ross, sipping toddy, with his heels on the hob; and Miss Harriet Martineau and her cat: Maclise designed the cat, with laughable zest and great artistic spirit. Here is Mr. George Cruikshank, seated on a barrel in a taproom, making sketches on his hat; Coleridge, with beautiful, if somewhat inflated, not to say flabby, features, and weak limbs; Talleyrand, seated, a figure like a frog, in a chair by the side of a fireplace; and Bulwer, ever conscious of himself, and highly ornamental.

MR. W. BEAMONT'S *History of the Castle of Halton and the Priory or Abbey of Norton* (Warrington, P. Pearse) will have considerable attractions for the antiquaries of Cheshire and the shires which border on that county, Welsh as well as English. Halton Castle belonged to the Brookes, and had a somewhat lengthy history, which, however, presents few salient points such as would justify us in reviewing the book at length. In fact, the said history is, to use a mildly expressive term, extremely dreary to readers who have no particular need to study it. Occasionally, however, there is ample material for the student. Norton Priory, for its claim to be called an "abbey" is a weak one, is, as a building, much better worth studying. There is a good and very rich doorway of Transitional character; there are also some sepulchral slabs, incised with floriated crosses, which in themselves present no novel features.

MESSRS. DULAU & Co. send us M. A. P. Martial's *Nouveau Traité de la Gravure à l'eau forte pour les Peintres et les Dessinateurs*, an extremely practical treatise on the processes of this now popular branch of art. As this essay is entirely technical, we can but commend it to practitioners and would-be practitioners as one of the most valuable works of its kind which are known to us. This is saying a good deal, for several tolerably good handbooks on the practice of etching have before now reached us. On the whole, however, this is probably the tersest and most rigidly, yet sufficiently, practical. Of one portion of this work we may, perhaps, speak particularly—we mean the illustrations, etchings by M. Martial himself, who is well known as a first-rate artist in this mode. Those who do not care for the book, and have not the faintest idea of becoming etchers, will, if they care for the art itself, buy the publication for the sake of the plates, which comprise a group of etcher's implements—acid bottle, feather, and needles—deliciously executed. Very rich is Planche 8, a sketch of a lady at half-length; capital is Planche 9, a canal in a city, with fine effect of light. We commend also Planche 11,

an interior, with contracted light, and admirably treated.

SALE.

THE collection of engravings and drawings formed at the commencement of the last century by Mr. Hugh Howard has, during the last week, been sold by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, and produced 4,606*l.* Campagnola, an early impression of St. John, 131*l.* Engravings: A. Dürer, Adam and Eve, 59*l.*,—Melencolia, 40*l.*,—Angles of the Sistine Chapel, G. Ghisi, 80*l.*,—Temptation of Adam, by Lucas van Leyden, 28*l.*,—Lot and his Daughters, 181*l.*,—Virgin and Child, 69*l.*,—Mars and Venus, 36*l.*,—Hercules Fighting the Serpent, by A. Mantegna, 30*l.*,—An Oriental, by B. Montagna, 51*l.*,—and Portrait of Aretino, by Marc Antonio, 780*l.*, the highest price ever given for a single print since the sale, at the same rooms, when Sir Charles Price's impression of Rembrandt's Hundred Guilder Piece, bought by Mr. Palmer for 180*l.*, was re-sold for 1,100*l.*, and purchased by M. Du Thuit. Engravings by Marc Antonio: Adam and Eve, 69*l.*,—Massacre of the Innocents, 77*l.*,—Madonna Lamenting the Dead Christ, 38*l.*,—The Last Supper, 105*l.*,—Mary and Martha Ascending the Steps of the Temple, 31*l.*,—Madonna Seated on the Clouds, 180*l.*,—Christ Seated on the Clouds, 59*l.*,—Cupid and the Graces, 25*l.*,—Apollo and Hyacinthus, 38*l.*,—Trojan Victorious, 32*l.*

Fine-Art Gossip.

IN electing Mr. Pettie to occupy the place of Sir E. Landseer, the Royal Academicians have used for the last time officially the premises which they have occupied so long in Trafalgar Square. These premises were, it will be remembered, accepted by the Academy in lieu of those which, more than a hundred years ago, George the Third granted to the body in Somerset House, these being a portion of the private property of the Crown. Eleven names of artists were "scratched" at this election. Mr. Pettie obtained twelve votes, Mr. Durham nine, Mr. O'Neil seven; another artist had six, another four, another two votes; five gentlemen obtained one vote each, making forty-five in all. It appears, therefore, that there were not fewer than twenty absentees in a body comprising at least sixty-five members. Considering the season of the year, and that the Academy comprises very few who, like landscape-painters, follow their studies out of London, this proportion is much greater than one would expect. It seems to prove that a large proportion of the members care but little about the elections, which are the most important, and, one would have supposed, the most interesting events of the academical year.

AMONG the curiosities of modern engraving is a fact which is sure to become interesting by and by. M. Blanchard engraved a very fine plate, in the line manner, from Maclise's picture, 'The Eve of St. Agnes,' representing the heroine of Keats's poem going to rest,—a picture which was in the Royal Academy a few years since. By mistake, the name of Mr. Holman Hunt was put to the early artist's proofs of this plate. This may have been due to the fact that M. Blanchard's plate being intended to serve as a companion to an engraving from a work by Mr. Hunt. Years ago, Mr. Hunt painted from the same poem a different subject. Before the mistake was discovered, a few impressions of the plate, with the artist's name in error, were distributed. The number was but small, and, of course, their value by and by will be very great, not only on account of their rarity, but because the error shows the earlier impressions. One of these impressions reached New York, and the art-critic of a leading journal there descanted impressively on the qualities of the picture, as illustrating the powers of Mr. Hunt, who did not escape censure for alleged defects in Maclise's work. An eminent European artist, having occasion to address the New York journal respecting an engraving from one of his own pic-

tures, incidentally pointed out the error to our learned brother on the other side of the Atlantic. It was in vain, for, notwithstanding the high reputation of the corrector, the New York writer emphatically, and somewhat superciliously, pointed to the name, "William Holman Hunt," engraved below M. Blanchard's print, and triumphantly averred that his correspondent was himself in error.

THE private view of the exhibition of the works of Sir E. Landseer takes place to-day (Saturday), at the Royal Academy. The galleries will be opened to the public on Monday next.

It appears that the Exhibition of English and Foreign Water-Colour Drawings, lately held in New York, cannot take place on the conditions which obtained last year. The drawings received for the intended Exhibition will, therefore, be returned to the artists, with an explanation of the circumstances.

SEVERAL of our larger provincial cities have recently taken steps to provide themselves with collections of works of art, and to this end have made purchases of valuable pictures. Birmingham has been among the first to act in this way, having bought one of Mr. Leighton's best pictures. This year the representatives of the same place have turned their attention to landscape, and have acted wisely in buying Mr. Brett's 'A North-Westerly Gale off the Long Ships Lighthouse,' which will be remembered at the last Academy Exhibition. This has been done by subscription; and the most gratifying feature of the case is, that the list of subscribers was headed by the local society of artists with a donation of one hundred pounds.

THE *Journal of the Archeological Institute* last issued contains several papers of considerable interest, especially one by Mr. Clark, on Richard's Castle, Herefordshire; an essay on Architecture in the Eleventh Century, by Mr. J. H. Parker, which we commend to students; and a third paper, by Archdeacon Trollop, on Durobrivæ.

MR. WATTS's portrait of Mr. Mill, in the possession of Sir Charles Dilke, is to be engraved by M. Rajon.

THE museum of copies from pictures by great masters, which has interested so many visitors to the Palais de l'Industrie, Paris, is to be suppressed. We must say that, although the merits of the works in question were by no means equal, and a considerable number of the copies are of an undesirable kind, the probabilities of a collection of copies being serviceable are very great; and this act of his successor, the Marquis de Chennevières, makes us regret even more than we should otherwise have done the removal of M. C. Blanc from the post of Director of the Fine Arts in France.

WE have received from Messrs. Seeley, Jackson & Hailiday the first number of *The Portfolio* for the new year. This is unusually interesting, because it contains a good etching by Mr. W. Wise, from the new Mantegna in the National Gallery; likewise a capital etching by M. Jacquemart, borrowed from the magnificent catalogue of Mr. Wilson's pictures, which we noticed not long since, reproducing the portrait of Elizabeth de Valois, Queen of Spain, after A. Moro. The text of the periodical in question contains several readable essays.

THE *Gazette des Beaux-Arts*, for January, contains a capital paper, by M. Paul Mantz, on English jewellery; an essay on Rubens's 'Chapeau de Paille,' by M. A. Michiels; the conclusion of M. Champfleury's paper on satirical prints for and against the Reformation; an article on drawings, by Géricault; and other contributions. There are, likewise, an etching by M. Rajon, from the 'Chapeau de Paille,' a rich and powerful etching by M. J. Brunet-Debain, after Decamps's picture, 'Intérieur de Cour en Italie,' and a third etching by M. G. Greux, after L. Verschuur's 'La Meuse à Dordrecht,' and many excellent woodcuts.

MUSIC

ROYAL ALBERT HALL CHORAL SOCIETY.—Conductor, Mr. Barnby.—Haden's 'CREATION' on Thursday, January 8, at Eight o'clock. Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Signor Giulio Perkin. Organist, Dr. Steiner.—Boxes, 21 3s. 6d. 10s. and 11 10s.; Stalls, 7s. 6d. and 3s.; Balcony, 3s.; Admission, 1s. Tickets at Novello's, 1, Berners Street and 35, Foultry; the usual Agents; and the Royal Albert Hall.

MUSIC OF THE FUTURE IN EDINBURGH.

THE Directors of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution, being desirous of affording their members some notion of what is termed the "Music of the Future," lately engaged Mr. Dannreuther, the pianist, to give two lectures on the Wagnerian creed. The Music Hall in George Street was hired for the purpose, and on each occasion was filled with an audience of upwards of 1,800 listeners. In the first lecture Mr. Dannreuther traced the growth of musical art from ancient Greece to the present period, sketching its connexion with the stage and with dramatic instrumental music, illustrating it by references to the programme music from Beethoven to Liszt, and commenting on Herr Richard Wagner and his tendencies. In the second lecture he gave an account of the lyric drama—its origin, development, merits, defects, and alleged inevitable decay, and, as a result, the Wagnerian resuscitation. The lecturer explained Herr Wagner's system, his poetical subject-matter, his division of scores, verse, orchestra, and pointed out the difficulties of attaining correct performances. The pianoforte illustrations were Sebastian Bach's Capriccio, 'On the Departure of a Friend,' Chopin's 'Adagio and Grand Polonaise,' Dr. Liszt's 'Rhapsodie Hongroise, No. 13'; with excerpts from Wagner's operas, 'Der Fliegende Holländer,' 'Tannhäuser,' 'Lohengrin,' and 'Die Meistersinger.' The two lectures were supplemented by a concert of vocal and instrumental music, in which the pianist had the co-operation of Herr Straus, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Zerbini, and Signor Piatti as the string quartet, and Fräulein Helene Arnim as vocalist; the selections being from the works of Veracini, Geminiani, Handel, Beethoven, Schubert, and Schumann, and from those of the living composers, Liszt, Wagner, Brahms, Joachim, and Randegger.

Musical Gossip.

MR. JOHN BOOSEY re-commences his London Ballad Concerts this evening (the 3rd inst.). On the 12th, the Monday Popular Concerts will be resumed; on the 17th, the Saturday Concerts and the Sydenham orchestral programmes; on the 22nd, the British Orchestral Society will open its second season; and on the 23rd, the Sacred Harmonic Society will produce Dr. Crotch's oratorio, 'Palestine.'

THERE were two disappointments at the Christmas performance of the 'Messiah' by the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society—neither Mr. Sims Reeves nor Signor Giulio Perkin sang; the former was replaced by Mr. Vernon Rigby, and the latter by Signor Agnesi. Mr. Barnby promises the appearance of the two absentees for the 'Creation,' on the 9th inst., with the co-operation of Madame Lemmens and Mr. Raynham. Mr. W. Carter's Choir sang in the 'Messiah' on New Year's evening, having as principals Mesdames Lemmens and Patey, Mr. Lloyd and Signor Agnesi.

THE Welsh residents of Liverpool and Birkenhead celebrated Christmas-Day in the former town at the Royal Amphitheatre, by holding the seventh annual Eisteddfod, with Mr. Brinley Richards, the composer, as president, who delivered a long address. Besides the customary competitions for compositions, for singing, and for playing, prizes were awarded for essays, epigrams, translations, pencil drawings, Berlin wool-working, carving in oak, &c. There was also a concert, conducted by Mynnddog (Mr. R. Davies), with Miss Edith Wynne, Miss M. Davies, Miss M. Williams, and Mr. T. J. Hughes as solo singers, and Mr. Ap'tomas, harper—not harpist, a word which we are cautioned not to print, under penalty of being excommunicated by the Bards of the Principality.

THE Tonic Sol-Fa College has held its Christmas Session at the Aldersgate Literary Institution, from the 29th ult. to the 2nd inst. Various discussions and papers, as also competitions connected with the system, were included in the programme.

MISS EMMA L. BEASLEY has gained, for the second time, the Westmoreland Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music, and Mr. Walter Fitton has been re-elected for the Potter Exhibition.

NOTHING daunted by the failures of M. Devilliers and of Signori De Bassini and Gilandi, the tenors, the Italian Opera-house directors in Paris are going to try M. Gênévoix as Edgardo, in 'Lucia.' Cenerentola, it is now stated, will be the next character for Mlle. Anna de Bellocca, whose fame has hitherto rested on her Rosina ('Il Barbiere'). Madame Carvalho's re-appearance as Juliette, in M. Gounod's opera, has been heartily greeted at the Opéra Comique, but the lady looks in vain for a Romeo, M. Duchesne being found no adequate representative of the part.

A COMPOSER's name which is now often coming before the public in Germany and in France, but has been rarely seen here, is that of Herr Max Bruch, the composer of the two operas, 'Lorely' and 'Hermione' ('Winter's Tale' of Shakspeare). At the eighth Gewandhaus Concert, in Leipzig, his symphonic poem, 'Odysseus,' was produced, for orchestra, chorus, and soli, the latter sung by Frau Amalie Joachim, the Berlin contralto (wife of the violinist), the baritone, Herr Gura, and Fräulein Friedländer. The violin concerto, by the same German composer, after being twice played by M. Sarasate at the National Concerts in Paris, was next introduced by the same artist at M. Pasdeloup's Popular Concerts; and, finally, the concerto has had the honour of being executed (also by M. Sarasate) at the Conservatoire Concerts. Herr Joachim has also performed the same work in Germany. We remark also that two movements out of Mr. Henry Litolf's fourth pianoforte concerto (the *adagio religioso* and *scherzo*) have been played by M. Theodore Ritter, at the Cirque d'Hiver (Sunday Popular Concerts).

THE Governor of Paris having prohibited the performance of the new three-act comic opera, by M. Laurent de Rillé, libretto by MM. Busnach and Liorat, the Director of the Théâtre des Menus-Plaisirs, where the work was produced, has closed the establishment. The piece, it seems, went even beyond the licence of 'Abélard et Héloïse' and the 'Timbale d'Argent'—if, indeed, the *honteuses inconvenances* could any further go than in those two flagrant operas.

SUCH has been the success of Handel's 'Messiah' in Paris, that a third performance will be given on the 9th inst.

ONE of our correspondents has sent us details of a visit he paid last week to the works at the new Opera at Paris. The stage is two yards wider than that of the old Opera, and there are two more boxes in each circle of the house, but it is the great size of the passages, lobbies, and crush-rooms that causes the new Opera to look like a city in itself. The ballet-green-room is one of the most floridly decorated apartments. To it will be admitted as spectators of the practice, only sovereign princes passing through Paris, ambassadors, and subscribers who subscribe for three nights a week. It will take fifteen months to finish the decorations.

OUR Naples Correspondent writes, under the date of the 19th of December:—"The concession granted by the Municipality to Signor Musella has been definitively settled and signed, and San Carlo is to be opened in the first week of January. The Municipality accords a subsidy of 300,000 fr., as you already know, and Musella deposits as caution-money 2,000 fr. of Rentes. There are to be eighty performances. 'Aida' is in course of preparation; La Sauz and La Krauss have arrived; and at this social and festal season, the theatrical fever will doubtless run high. On Saturday, the musical season of the Philharmonie will commence, under the direction of Signor

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Prestreau, and on Christmas Eve the Fondo will be re-opened. We say re-opened, for it was closed during the cholera epidemic, as several artistes gave up their engagements rather than risk their lives. It is to the honour of Signor Molinari, who had no interest in the preceding *Impressa*, that he has offered, to those who have already paid their subscriptions for the season, the continuation of the *Recite* promised at the beginning. The performances will be carried on till the end of the Carnival, and will begin with 'Don Pasquale,' of Donizetti, to be followed by the 'Ballo in Maschera' and 'Marta.'"

THE Milan *Trovatore* supplies a list of twenty-four new operas produced in Italy in 1873, out of which only three are likely to remain in the repertoire, namely, 'Caligola,' by Signor Braga, the violinist, brought out at the San Carlos, in Lisbon; 'Il Mercante di Venezia,' by Signor Pinsuti; 'I Goti,' by Signor Gobatti, both given at the Teatro Comunale, in Bologna; and 'Morovico,' by Signor Dominicetti, now playing at the Dal Verme, in Milan. The *Trovatore* does not include in the list the scenes and cantatas by Signor Ponchielli; the 'Parlatore Eterno' and the 'Lord of Barleigh,' by Signor Schira; 'Tramonto,' by Signor Coronaro; and 'Tesoro o l'Avaro Burlato,' by Signor Sbolgi. Our Milanese contemporary consoles himself by remembering that fifty-six operas were produced in 1873, only one of which has survived. We remark that the new works of the past year came out at Milan, Naples, Bologna, Turin, Parma, and Genoa. Lisbon is quoted, because 'Caligola,' composed by an Italian, is to be heard at the Scala, in Milan. In the enumeration of operas to be performed on the opening nights of the Carnival and Lent season at the leading Italian Opera-houses in Italy, there are specified the 'Africaine' and 'Dinorah' of Meyerbeer; the 'Faust' of M. Gounod; the 'Aida,' the 'Forza del Destino,' 'Macbeth,' 'I Vespri Siciliani,' and 'Rigoletto,' of Signor Verdi; the 'Semiramide' and 'Guglielmo Tell' of Rossini; the 'Promessi Sposi' of Signor Ponchielli and of Signor Petrella; the 'Esmeralda' of Signor Campana; the 'Ruy Blas' of Signor Marchetti; the 'Vestale' of Mercadante; the 'Sonnambula' of Bellini, &c. In Venice, Herr Wagner's 'Rienzi' is to be mounted. At Cairo, where 'Aida' was first heard, Signor Verdi's last opera continues to be popular, with Signora Stolz as the heroine, and Signori Fanelli, Steller, and Medini in the cast. 'Aida' has also met with immense success at Buenos Ayres, with Signora Pizzoni.

THE revival of Herr Wagner's 'Tannhäuser' has not been a financial success at the Brussels Théâtre de la Monnaie.

DRAMA

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, F. R. Chatterton.—'JACK IN THE BOX; or, Harlequin Little Tom Tinker,' Grand Christmas Comic Pantomime, will be performed every Evening, preceded by the Farce of 'HUE AND SEEK.' Doors open at Half-past 6, commence at 7. Prices, from 6d. to 5l. 5s. Morning Performances every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Children and Schools at reduced prices to First Circle, Dress Circle, and Stalls. Doors open at Half-past 1, commence at 2. Box-Office open from 10 till 5 daily.

THE WEEK.

DRURY LANE.—'Jack in the Box,' COVENT GARDEN.—'Red Riding Hood and her Sister Little Bo-peep,' PRINCESS'S.—'Little Puss in Boots,' LYCEUM.—'A Husband in Clover,' a New Comedietta, in One Act. GAITEY.—'Battle of Life,' a Drama, in Three Acts. By Charles Dickens, edited by Charles Dickens, jun. HAYMARKET.—'Raymond and Agnes,' a Melo-drama, in Two Acts.

THE production of so many novelties was anticipated or deferred to avoid the Boxing-day crush, that Boxing-day passed off without a crush. Not a single drama of importance competed with the pantomimes, which this season had something like a monopoly of novelty. There is nothing in this year's pantomimic contribution calling for special comment. Mr. Blanchard's "annual" at

Drury Lane blends together humour and fancy in a manner thoroughly characteristic of the author, and introduces some amusing allusions to current events. At Covent Garden, splendour of accessories compensates for the absence of literary pretension; and at the Princess's, the taste of grown folk is less consulted than that of children. A due amount of glitter and brilliancy is to be found in all the western, and at most of the outlying theatres. If the combinations of colour in the transformation-scenes are in no case particularly artistic, they are always effective from a popular standpoint, and the mechanical effects are such as no other country is able to rival. The pleasure derived from this source is liable to be marred by the reflection that the lives of the poor creatures exhibited in the spectacular tableaux must always be sacrificed, should one of the behind-scenes fires, not uncommon in theatres, ever get the upper hand. It is not easy to conjecture what can be the feelings of the fairies, who, from the top of the stage, where they are immovably fixed, see the house on fire beneath, and speculate on the chances of success of the efforts to suppress it. A considerable number of ballet-girls were once, at least, provided with an excitement of the kind, and were aware of the while that were the performances suspended, which they were not, twenty minutes must, under the most favourable circumstances, be occupied in getting them down. So little novelty is displayed in the choice of subjects or the arrangement of materials, that the recapitulation of the names of the pantomimes is unnecessary. There seems little reason why the different theatres might not, on the arrival of Christmas, pass on to their neighbours the pantomimes of the previous year, after the manner in which new works are circulated in a country book club.

A short after-piece at the Lyceum, entitled 'A Husband in Clover,' is a tolerably free adaptation of the well-known trifle, 'Un Mari dans du Coton.' It is played with spirit and gaiety by Miss Virginia Francis, who makes in it her first appearance this season, and by Mr. John Clayton. Horace has been too much pampered and coddled by his Lydia. So evenly and uninterruptedly flows the stream of domestic felicity, that he pines for a change—would welcome a danger even that should relieve the monotony of existence. With the gentleness and loving care of his own wife he contrasts the airs and tantrums he occasionally sees in the wives of his neighbours, and he comes to the conclusion that anything is better than the unbroken sunshine of his life. Fortunately for himself, he is cured before the disease is far advanced. Lydia discovers the source of his discontent, and succeeds in playing a part that convinces him he has been too hasty in believing that there is nothing worse than domestic serenity. When once relieved from his fears, he accepts with thankfulness the state of affairs he previously found so tiresome, and welcomes with gratitude and eagerness a little formula of affection that had before seemed to him the very climax of stupidity. Full justice to these scenes is done by two competent exponents, and the grace and humour of the interpretation are equal.

'The Battle of Life,' at the Gaiety, is neither wholly a novelty nor altogether a repro-

duction. Previous adaptations of the well-known Christmas story are in existence, and some of these resemble pretty closely the latest version. Mr. Charles Dickens, jun., has executed competently the task of adaptation, or, as he calls it, editing for the stage, and the play he has produced shows few traces of being extracted from a novel. Its interest is continuous, if it is never very strong, and the well-known characters of the story preserve their physiognomy. If the explanatory scenes between the servants were shortened or suppressed there would be artistic gain. The comic interest overrides the serious. It is difficult, if not impossible, to feel a profound sympathy for a lady whose theories of life lead her to the conclusion it is her duty, in pursuit of a sentimental will-of-the-wisp, to sacrifice the feelings of her lover and the honour of her family. This is done by Marion Jeddler, the heroine, who, with a mistaken notion of self-sacrifice, leaves her home and her betrothed, whom she persuades herself her sister loves. There is tenderness in Miss Carlisle's presentation of this eccentric specimen of womanhood; but the character remains unsympathetic and unreal. Quite otherwise is it with the comic characters. *Clemency Newcombe*, in the hands of Miss Farren, is the most brusque and honest of country waiting-maids. Mr. Toole makes *Ben Britain* a very stolid and humorous serving-man. Mr. Lionel Brough is good as *Snitchey*, the lawyer; and Mr. Maclean gives a clever picture of the eccentric *Dr. Jeddler*. Mr. Reece's burlesque of 'Don Giovanni' followed the drama.

'Raymond and Agnes; or, the Bleeding Nun of Lindenberg,' a melo-drama, first given at the Haymarket in 1811, is the piece Mr. Buckstone has selected for revival. It is difficult to conceive any motive stronger than that of desiring to show the superiority of his own management over that of his predecessors that can have influenced Mr. Buckstone in so strange a selection. No exceptional popularity attended this melo-drama at its first production, and the taste for the kind of horrors with which it deals has passed away. When the 'Monk' first took the town by storm, a ballet at Covent Garden was constructed upon the most decent episode—perhaps the only decent episode—in the book. This ballet supplied the story of the drama, which, in all literary and artistic respects, is worthless. Of its two acts, one is all but independent of the other, and its bogies are of the veriest "raw-head-and-bloody-bones" type. In the first act the hero and heroine meet accidentally at a cottage in a forest, the host of which is one of a band of brigands. They escape, thanks to the wife of the peasant, who, weary of a succession of horrors, bids Raymond look at his bed, still bloody from past murders. After reaching the Castle of Lindenberg, the home of Agnes, where his reception, in spite of having saved the life of the maiden, is the reverse of hospitable, Raymond arranges an elopement with Agnes, who, in order to deceive the guards and profit by their affright, dresses herself as the bleeding nun, a spectre which haunts the castle. He takes the ghost for his mistress, and elopes with her, leaving Agnes to fall again into the hands of the robbers, and so affording room for a scene which combines a wildly improbable extermination of the brigands with a convenient but

uncalled-for apotheosis of the spectre. This wonderful piece of extravagance was fairly acted by the company, but excited little curiosity and no interest.

Dramatic Gossip.

The first performance of Mr. Gilbert's play of 'Charity' is fixed for this evening, at the Haymarket Theatre.

'TRICOCHÉ ET CACOLET,' the famous piece of absurdity of MM. Meilhac and Halévy, was announced for revival on Friday night at the Holborn Theatre.

'LE BORGNE,' a drama, in five acts and six scenes, has been given at the Ambigu-Comique, with a singular result. The piece aims at serious interest, and presents the spectacle of the wanderings in Ireland of James the Second, King of England, after his defeat, sheltered by a certain Lord O'Neil. His attempts at escape are constantly frustrated, however, by a one-eyed beggar. This omnipresent worthy proves to be Lord Athol, who, having a private grudge as well as a political animosity against the Stuarts and O'Neil, takes this way of demonstrating it. The villain of the plot is Lord Nevil, Viceroy of Ireland. So much emphasis was given intentionally to the extravagant speeches of the play, and so much prominence to the more ridiculous incidents, that the whole obtained a burlesque triumph which seems to promise well for the treasury.

M. SARDOU'S 'Merveilleuses' is a failure, in spite of the wonderful acting of Madame Chaumont. M. Dumas's 'Monsieur Alphonse' has made the hit of the Paris season.

'HENRI III. ET SA COUR,' by Alexandre Dumas, will be the next important revival at the Porte Saint-Martin Theatre. The principal rôles will be sustained by Mlle. Dica-Petit and M. Dumaine.

M. SARDOU'S 'L'Oncle Sam' has been produced at the Théâtre du Parc, Brussels. The new work of this indefatigable dramatist, forthcoming at the Palais Royal, will be entitled 'Marius Boussignol.'

The forthcoming production, at the Union Square Theatre, New York, of a play by Mr. Boucicault, entitled 'Astray,' is announced from America. The villain of the piece is said to be a successful novelist, who has adopted ideas current in some portions of America concerning free love.

MISS NEILSON'S latest performance in Philadelphia has consisted of Julia in the 'Hunchback,' which she has given for the first time in America. One of her critics likens the actress in this part to "the roses before the shrine of Aphrodite." English criticism is incapable of such flights as are common across the Atlantic.

MISCELLANEA

The late Mr. Akerman.—The book inquired after seems to be "Wiltshire Tales, by John Yonge Akerman," London, 1853; the matter is extracted from *Bentley's Miscellany*, in which it was produced under the pseudonym of "Paul Pindar." It contains several songs illustrative of the local dialect, *ex. gr.*

My neam is Dick Bradley,
A bwoy as loves pleazur,
In cwourtin' and kistin'
I spends all my letchur.

Ri tol, &c., p. 34 (with music).

There are others, as 'The Saddle,' p. 67; 'The Harnet and the Bittle,' p. 96; 'The Harvest Home,' p. 122, with music; smaller pieces at pp. 36-7. Mr. Akerman also produced 'A Glossary of Provincial Words and Phrases in use in Wiltshire,' London, 1842; and a book of tales, 'Legends of Old London,' which was published by my late firm.

A. HALL.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—J. S.—M. S.—J. R. B.—E. H. H.—S. J. G. C.—F. C.—W. C. H.—A Bookseller—received.

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